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ABSTRACT

The 1990 census shows about 5 million children living in the 13 states comprising Appalachia. Ninety percent of Appalachian children are white and nine percent are black, with the majority of black children living in the southern subregion. Children represent a quarter of the region's residents, but their numbers have declined by 11 percent since 1980, while the total number of children in the U.S. remained constant. Among families with children, two-parent households represent 82 percent of white families and 46 percent of black families. About one in five Appalachian children were classified as poor, only slightly higher than the U.S. average. But the risk of poverty was significantly greater for younger children, black children, and those living in fatherless families. The school dropout rate among children aged 16-19 was 12 percent, similar to the U.S. average, but ranged from 8 to 18 percent by state. Data tables and bar graphs provide statistics by subregion and state on the following topics: (1) size of the child population and distribution by age and race; (2) family structure, household composition, and percentage of births to teen mothers by race; (3) income and child poverty by race, age of child, age of householder, and family type, as well as poverty among the elderly by race; and (4) dropout rates, high school completion, and school and preschool enrollments and enrollment rates. (SV)

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ED 370 755

Children in Appalachia

Current Conditions and Recent Trends
1990

Prepared for the Appalachian Regional Commission

by
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Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the current conditions of children in Appalachia using data from the 1990 decennial census. Where possible, we also provide data from the 1980 census.

In 1990, about 5 million children lived in the 13 states comprising the Appalachian region. The majority of these children are white (4,489,559), but 10 percent of children in the region are of other races, most notably black (9 percent). While in comparison to the nation as a whole the share of minorities in Appalachia is small, the percentage of black children in the Southern subregion (17 percent) exceeds the national figure (15 percent). The Appalachian portions of Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina have the largest percentages of black children in the region -- 38, 25, and 22 percent, respectively.

Appalachian children are evenly distributed across three age-groups -- less than 6, 6 to 11, and 12 to 17 -- with about a third of the child population in each. These percentages do not vary greatly by race. Taken as a proportion of the total population, children currently represent a quarter of the region's residents, but their numbers have declined by 11 percent since 1980. In contrast, the proportion of children in the total U.S. remained about the same over the decade.

The Appalachian region is comprised of a slightly higher proportion of adults ages 65 or older (14 percent) than is the total U.S. Like the nation as a whole, the population in Appalachia is aging. In 1980, older adults represented 12 percent of the population in Appalachia, while 14 percent of the population was 65 or older in 1990. Comparable 1980 and 1990 figures for the percent of older adults in the U.S. are 11 and 13 percent, respectively. Appalachia's share of black adults ages 65 or older (10 percent) is slightly higher than the national figure (8 percent).

Appalachia has nearly six million families (5,754,927) residing within its borders. The majority (5,351,031) of these families are white, while 360,651 are black. While most families in the region are comprised of married couples (4,718,619), sizable numbers of Appalachian families are female-headed (817,814) and male-headed (218,494). Among families with children, nearly one-half million (475,253) are headed by a mother only. In percentage terms, the vast majority of white families with children in Appalachia are married-couple families (82 percent), while this is true of slightly less than half of the black families with children (46 percent) in the region. Moreover, 15 percent of white families with children in Appalachia are female-headed, compared to 49 percent of black families with children. These patterns mirror the nation as a whole.

Viewed from the perspective of children, the majority in Appalachia, as in the total U.S., reside in married-couple families. Seventy-eight percent of Appalachian children live with two parents, 18 percent are in female-headed families, and 4 percent are in families headed by a male only. Although these data for children were not available separately by race, the large percentage of black female-headed families with children suggest that the share of black children residing in two-parent families is notably lower than it is for whites.

Obviously, a key concern in understanding the state of Appalachian children is their level of poverty. About one in five children living in Appalachia were classified as falling below the poverty line in 1990 -- only slightly higher than the percent of children in the total U.S. (18 percent) classified as poor. Moreover, twelve percent of Appalachian children were recipients of public assistance in 1990.

The risk of poverty is not uniform among children in Appalachia, however, particular vulnerabilities are found among younger ages, black children, and those living in mother-only families. Twenty-three percent of children less than six are poor, compared to 18 percent of children ages 12 to 17. Black children in Appalachia are markedly more likely to be poor (43 percent) than white children (18 percent), however the disparity between the two groups is slightly smaller in Appalachia than it is for the total U.S. (40 versus

12 percent). Although 12 percent of children in married-couple families fell below the poverty line in 1990, this is true of more than half of those living with their mothers only (54 percent).

Moreover, younger families are typically more vulnerable to poverty because of the relatively lower job tenure of their household heads, and thus lower earnings. When the percent of households with incomes below $10,000 is compared across different categories of age of householder, this differential risk of poverty is evident in both the U.S. and in the Appalachian region. While more than a third of households headed by someone 25 years old or younger in Appalachia have incomes falling below $10,000, this is true of only 14 percent of those 25 to 34 years old, and 11 percent of the householders who are between 35 and 54 years of age. Among householders who were at least 55 or older, the percent with incomes below $10,000 rises again to 30 percent.

Family incomes in Appalachia average considerably below those of families in the U.S. as a whole. While the average American married-couple family with children has an income of $46,878, the comparable figure for such families in Appalachia is only $37,827. Disparities in family income among female-headed families with children in Appalachia versus the U.S. are not as great in dollar terms -- $11,516 versus $14,326, respectively, but are similar in terms of proportion of income. Within Appalachia, comparable to the total U.S., the average income of married-couple families with children is about three times the size of that for female-headed families ($11,516). The incomes of male-headed families with children rank in the middle with a mean of $19,551.

Turning to the other end of the age spectrum, adults aged 65 or older are about as likely as children to be classified as poor. Less than 20 percent of adults aged 65 or older in Appalachia fall below the poverty level, however, the incidence among blacks (35 percent) is more than double that of whites (16 percent).

Children in Appalachia
Current Conditions and Recent Trends, 1990

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the current conditions of children in Appalachia using data from the 1990 decennial census. Where possible, we also provide data from the 1980 census. We use four general indicators to present a portrait of the state of children in the Appalachian region:

- the size and composition of the child population,
- the number and composition of Appalachian families,
- measures of income and poverty, and
- indicators of educational enrollment patterns.

We contrast the condition of Appalachian children with that of children in the nation as a whole, and examine variations across the three subregions comprising Appalachia. We also describe patterns among the portions of the 13 States that contribute to the child population of the region. Exhibits 1 and 2 describe the State portions and numbers of counties that comprise the Appalachian region and subregions.

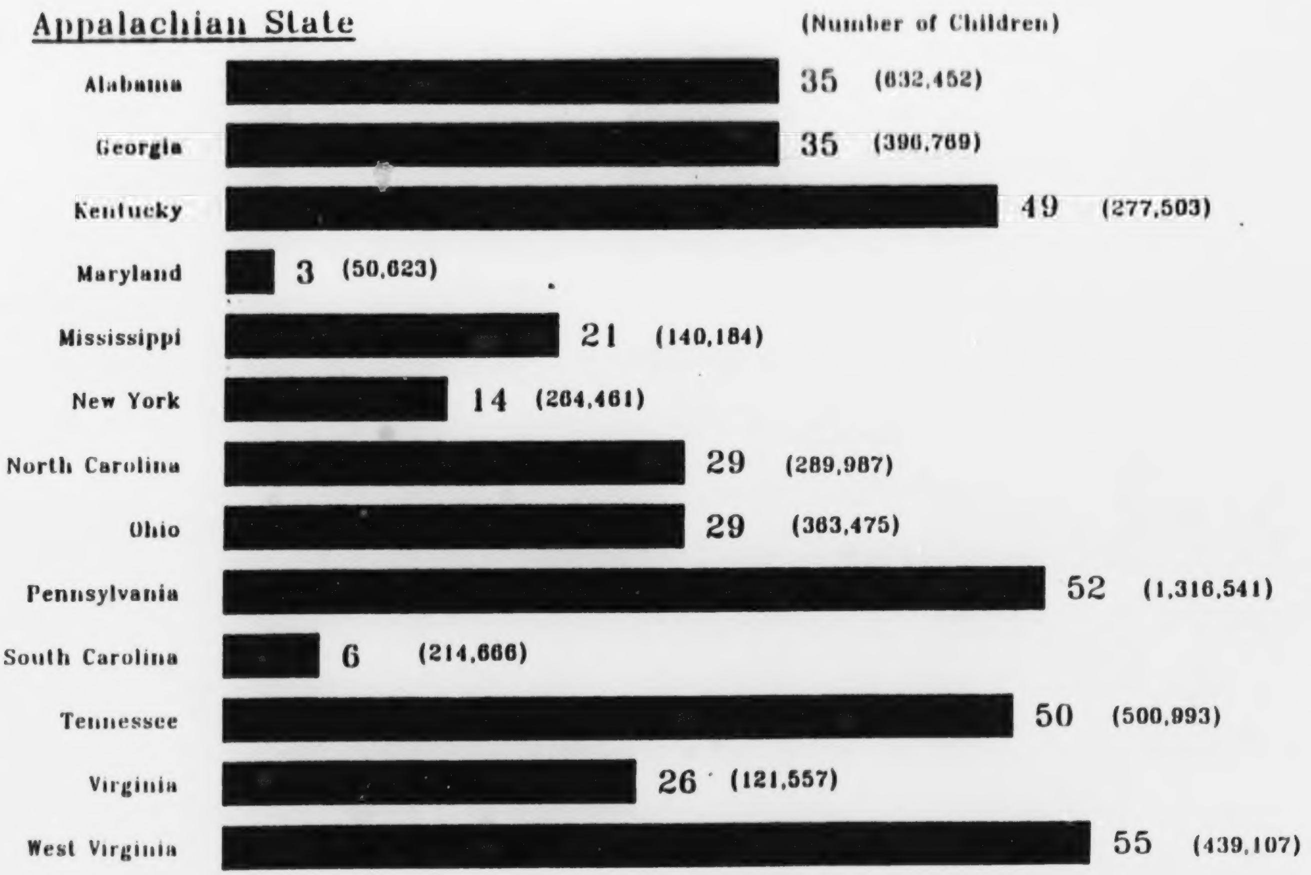
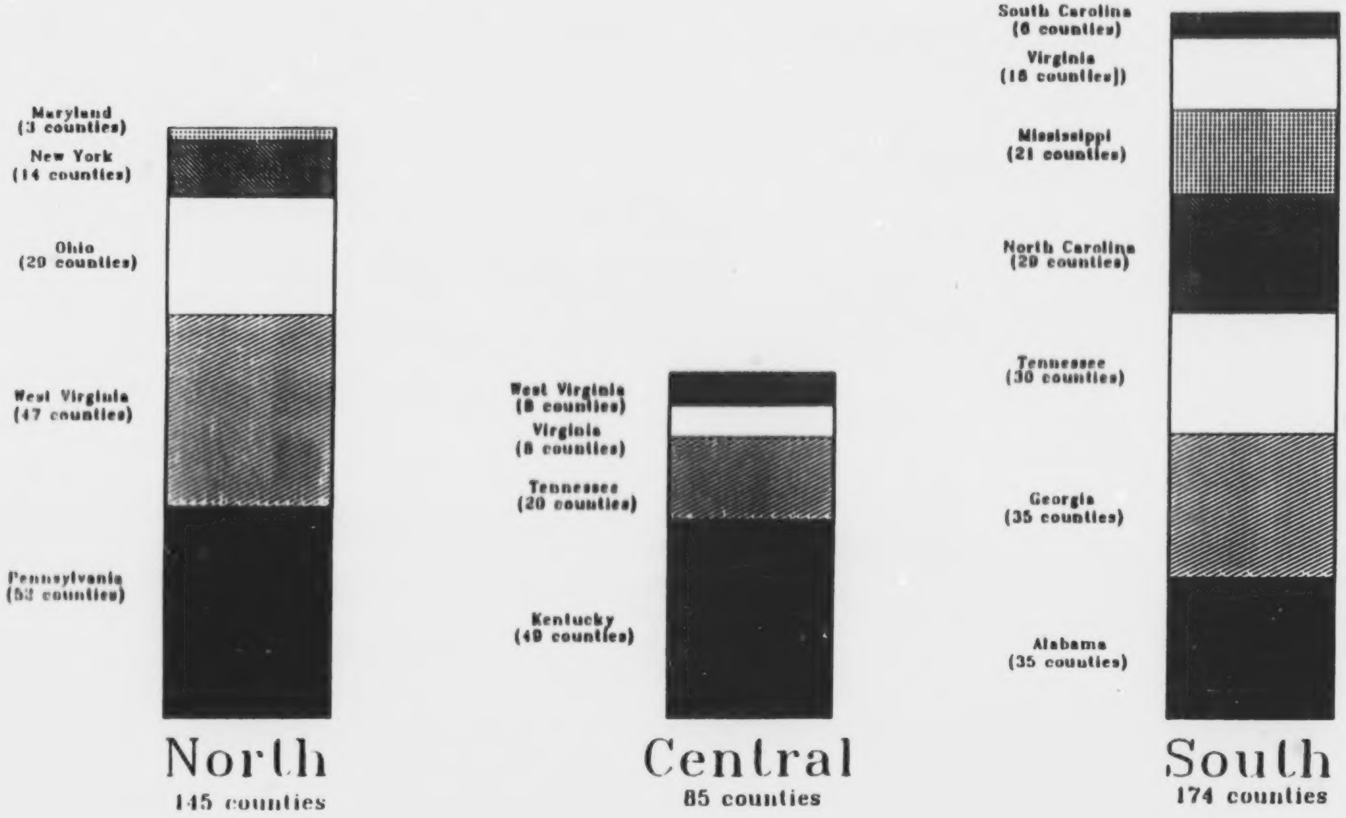


Exhibit 1. Number of Counties in Appalachian States

Exhibit 2. States and Number of Counties in Appalachian Subregions



Population

Size and Composition of the Child Population

An appropriate starting point in constructing an overview of the state of children in Appalachia is with basic data about the size and composition of the child population. In this section, we provide answers to the questions:

- How many children live within the boundaries of the Appalachian region? How many and what proportion of children are less than 6? 6 to 11? 12 to 17?
- What is the racial composition of Appalachia's child population?
- How do children fit into the overall population structure of Appalachia? That is, what share of Appalachia's total population is constituted by children?
- How has the size of the child population changed in the past decade?
- How does the share of children in Appalachia compare to the percent of adults ages 65 or older?

▸ How many children live in Appalachia and how are they distributed across age groups?

(see Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 8; Figures 1, 2)

In 1990, about 5 million children lived in the 13 States comprising the Appalachian region. Appalachian children less than six years old numbered 1,604,909, while there were 1,690,800 children ages 6 to 11, and 1,712,609 ages 12 to 17. Each of the age groups represents roughly one third of the overall population of children in Appalachia.

Patterns by Subregion

o The Northern subregion of Appalachia, comprised of the Appalachian portions of Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and most of West Virginia, contributes the largest number of children to the region -- 2,346,240 -- followed by the Southern subregion with 2,139,148 children. Just over a half million children reside in the smallest of the subregions, Central (522,930) (see Exhibits 1 and 2).

o The Central subregion has a slightly higher percentage of adolescents and teenagers (37 percent) among its child population than either the Northern or Southern subregions (34 percent each).

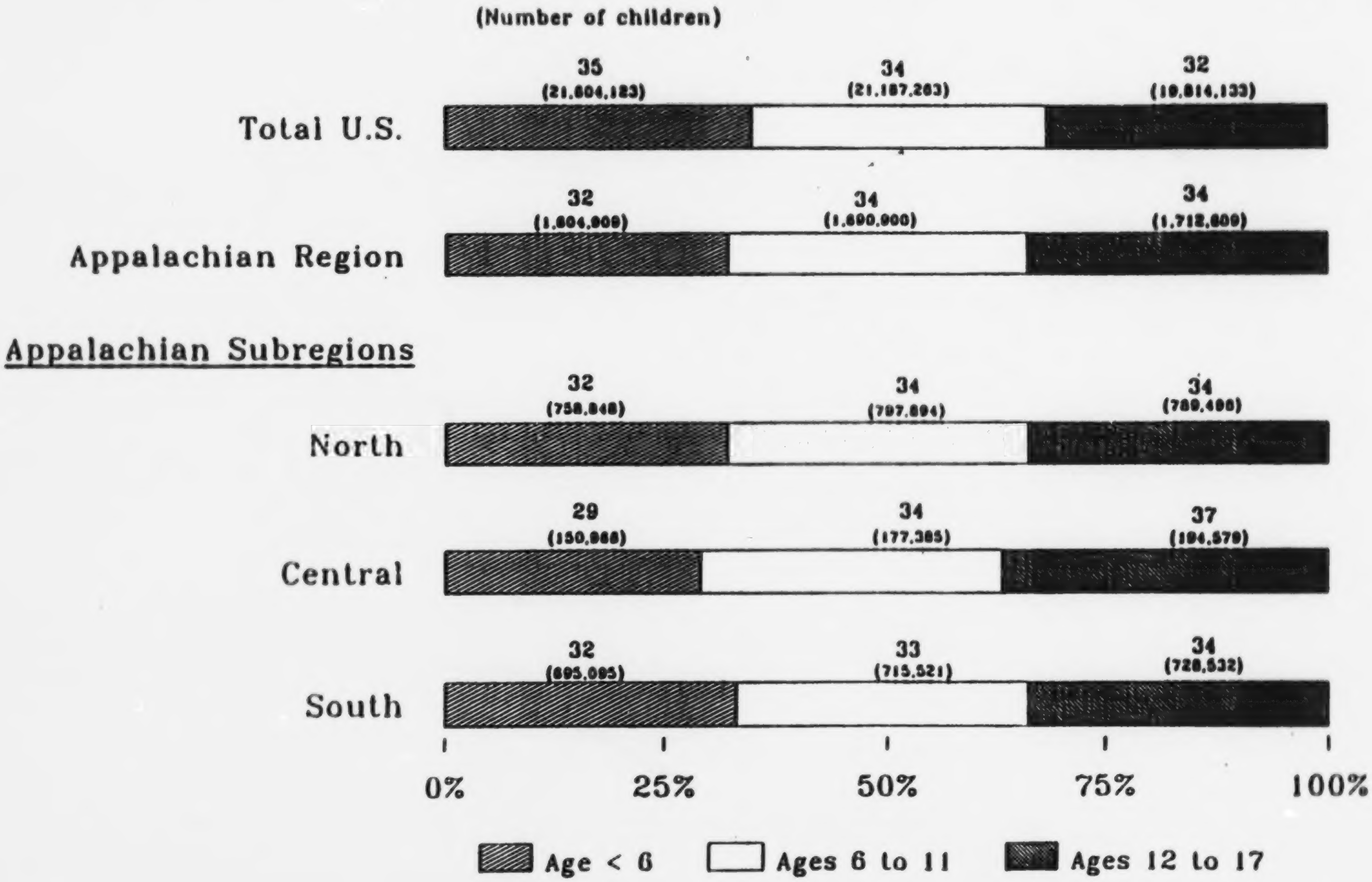
Patterns by Appalachian Portion of States

o Appalachian States vary considerably in the size of their child populations. The Appalachian portion of Pennsylvania contributes over a million children to the region (1,316,541), more than twice as many as the next largest contributor, Appalachian Alabama (632,452), followed closely by Tennessee (500,993). The fewest children are found in the Appalachian States of Maryland (50,623), Virginia (121,557), and Mississippi (140,84).

Patterns by Appalachian Portion of States (continued)

- **Children less than six years old represent a smaller share (29 percent) of the child populations in Appalachian Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky than in other Appalachian States.**

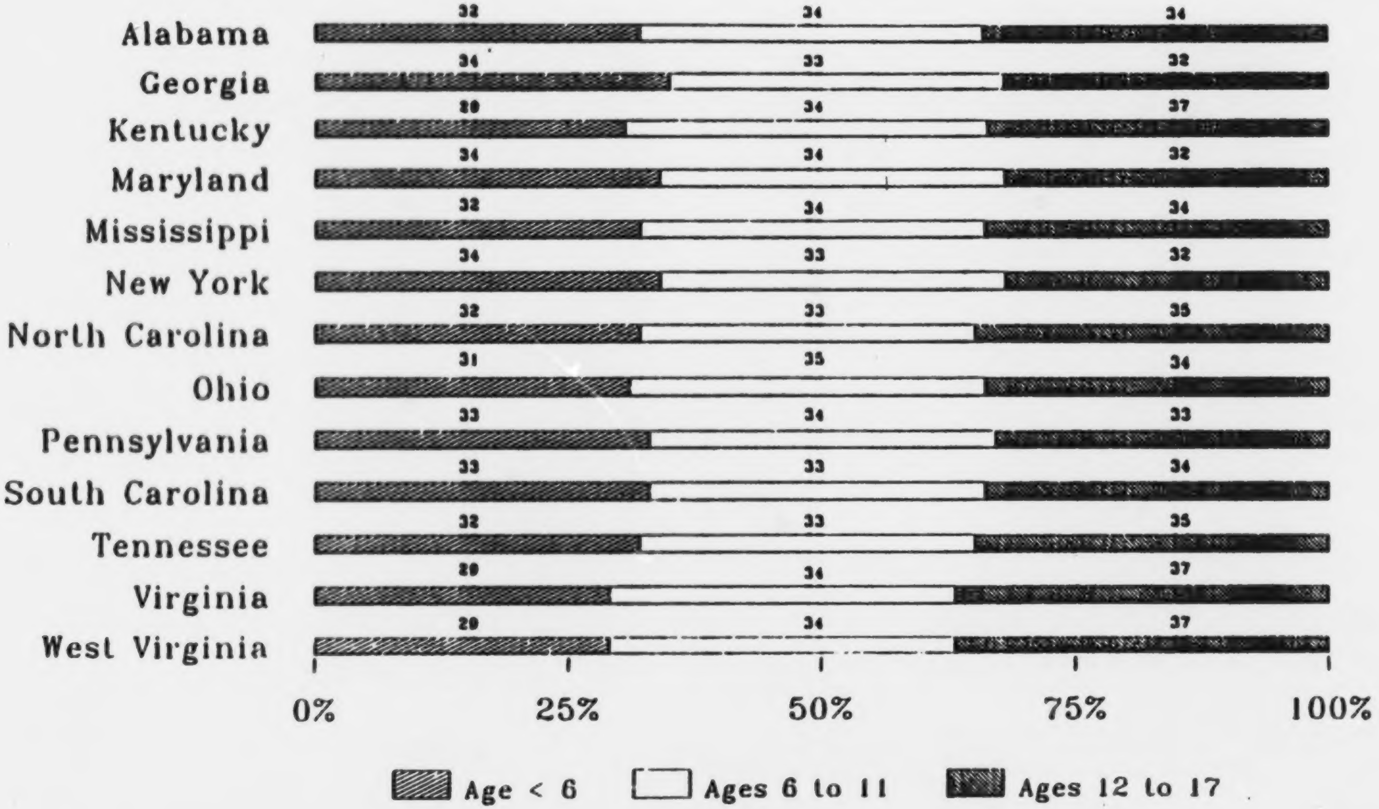
Figure 1. Percent of Children by Age Groups, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P118, P119

Figure 2. Percent of Children by Age Group, 1990 Census.

Appalachian Portion of State



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Tables P118, P119

Table 1. Number and Percent of White and Black Children Under 18 in the Population, 1990 Census.

		Number of Children under 18			Percent of Children under 18	
		Total	White	Black	White	Black
Total US		62,605,519	47,107,037	9,335,908	75	15
Appalachian Region		5,008,318	4,489,559	458,229	90	9
Appalachian Subregion	North	2,346,240	2,228,155	91,176	95	4
	Central	522,930	508,452	11,383	97	2
	South	2,139,148	1,752,952	355,670	82	17
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	632,452	465,981	158,135	74	25
	Georgia	396,769	359,736	28,442	91	7
	Kentucky	277,503	272,589	3,686	98	1
	Maryland	50,623	48,403	1,598	96	3
	Mississippi	140,184	86,016	53,208	61	38
	New York	264,461	253,577	4,937	96	2
	North Carolina	289,987	251,070	33,529	87	12
	Ohio	363,475	353,770	7,151	97	2
	Pennsylvania	1,316,541	1,234,867	66,924	94	5
	South Carolina	214,666	165,543	46,839	77	22
	Tennessee	500,993	460,345	35,055	92	7
	Virginia	121,557	117,903	3,024	97	2
	West Virginia	439,107	419,759	15,701	96	4

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Tables P118, P119.

Table 2. Number and Percent of White and Black Children under 6 in Population, 1990 Census.

		Number of Children less than 6			Percent of Children less than 6	
		Total	White	Black	White	Black
Total US		21,604,123	16,204,013	3,216,863	75	15
Appalachian Region		1,604,909	1,434,517	150,120	89	9
Appalachian Subregion	North	758,848	717,471	32,119	95	4
	Central	150,966	146,684	3,295	97	2
	South	695,095	570,362	114,706	82	17
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	202,298	150,147	49,940	74	25
	Georgia	136,490	123,020	10,065	90	7
	Kentucky	81,530	80,057	1,072	98	1
	Maryland	17,102	16,214	671	95	4
	Mississippi	45,134	28,079	16,791	62	37
	New York	90,012	86,161	1,638	96	2
	North Carolina	93,462	80,636	10,967	86	12
	Ohio	113,874	110,857	2,281	97	2
	Pennsylvania	433,101	403,858	24,050	93	6
	South Carolina	70,316	54,112	15,459	76	22
	Tennessee	157,999	144,963	11,273	92	7
	Virginia	35,823	34,679	947	97	3
	West Virginia	127,768	121,734	4,966	95	4

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P118 and P119.

Table 3. Number and Percent of White and Black Children 6 to 11 in Population, 1990 Census.

		Number of Children 6 to 11			Percent of Children 6 to 11	
		Total	White	Black	White	Black
Total US		21,187,263	15,991,741	3,140,702	75	15
Appalachian Region		1,690,800	1,515,974	154,226	90	9
Appalachian Subregion	North	797,894	759,227	29,945	95	4
	Central	177,385	172,356	3,891	97	2
	South	715,521	584,391	120,390	82	17
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	215,175	157,462	54,514	73	25
	Georgia	132,450	120,218	9,392	91	7
	Kentucky	93,959	92,264	1,224	98	1
	Maryland	17,172	16,409	525	96	3
	Mississippi	47,731	28,472	18,896	60	40
	New York	90,261	86,695	1,582	96	2
	North Carolina	95,023	82,603	10,513	87	11
	Ohio	125,576	122,200	2,431	97	2
	Pennsylvania	445,758	419,211	21,865	94	5
	South Carolina	71,264	55,342	15,157	78	21
	Tennessee	166,677	152,888	11,839	92	7
	Virginia	40,785	39,609	1,013	97	2
	West Virginia	148,969	142,601	5,275	96	4

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P118 and P119.

Table 4. Number and Percent of White and Black Children 12 to 17 in Population, 1990 Census.

		Number of Children 12 to 17			Number of Children 12 to 17	
		Total	White	Black	White	Black
Total US		19,814,133	14,911,283	2,978,343	75	15
Appalachian Region		1,712,609	1,539,068	153,883	90	9
Appalachian Subregion	North	789,498	751,457	29,112	95	4
	Central	194,579	189,412	4,197	97	2
	South	728,532	598,199	120,574	82	17
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	214,979	158,372	53,681	74	25
	Georgia	127,829	116,498	8,985	91	7
	Kentucky	102,014	100,268	1,390	98	1
	Maryland	16,349	15,780	402	97	2
	Mississippi	47,319	29,465	17,521	62	37
	New York	84,188	80,721	1,717	96	2
	North Carolina	101,502	87,831	12,049	87	12
	Ohio	124,025	120,713	2,439	97	2
	Pennsylvania	437,682	411,798	21,009	94	5
	South Carolina	73,086	56,089	16,223	77	22
	Tennessee	176,317	162,494	11,943	92	7
	Virginia	44,949	43,615	1,064	97	2
	West Virginia	162,370	155,424	5,460	96	3

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P118 and P119.

► What is the racial composition of the Appalachian child population?

(see Tables 1, 2, 3, 4; Figures 3, 4)

The majority of Appalachian children are white (4,489,559), but 10 percent of children in the region are of other races, most notably black (9 percent). While almost a half-million black children reside in Appalachia (458,229), they are underrepresented in the region compared to the U.S. (15 percent).

Patterns by Subregion

o Unlike the region as a whole, the percentage of black children in Southern Appalachia (17 percent) exceeds the national figure (15 percent). In contrast, only two percent, or 11,383 black children comprise the child population in the Central subregion.

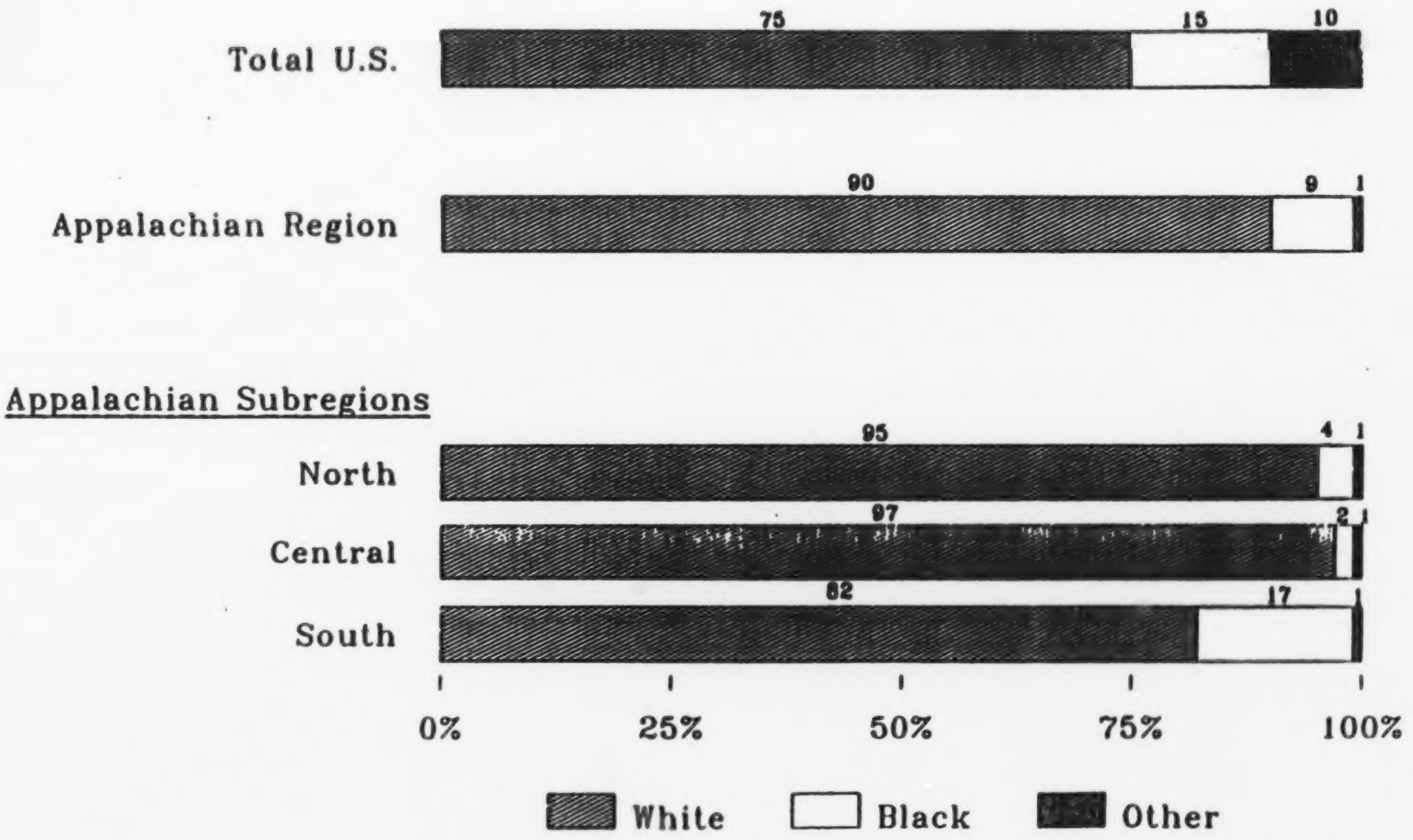
Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

o The Appalachian portions of Mississippi, Alabama, and South Carolina have the largest percentages of black children in the region -- 38, 25, and 22 percent, respectively. These percentages translate into 158,135 black children in Appalachian Alabama, 53,208 in the Appalachian portion of Mississippi, and 46,839 black children in Appalachian South Carolina. Although representing only 5 percent of the child population, a sizable number (66,924) of black children reside in Appalachian Pennsylvania. The Appalachian State parts of Tennessee (35,055), North Carolina (33,529), and Georgia (28,442) also contribute large numbers of black children to the region.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States (continued)

o Over half of the Appalachian States have child populations comprised of 5 percent or fewer black children. These include the Appalachian portions of Pennsylvania (5 percent), West Virginia (4 percent), Maryland (3 percent), New York (2 percent), Ohio (2 percent), Virginia (2 percent), and Kentucky (1 percent).

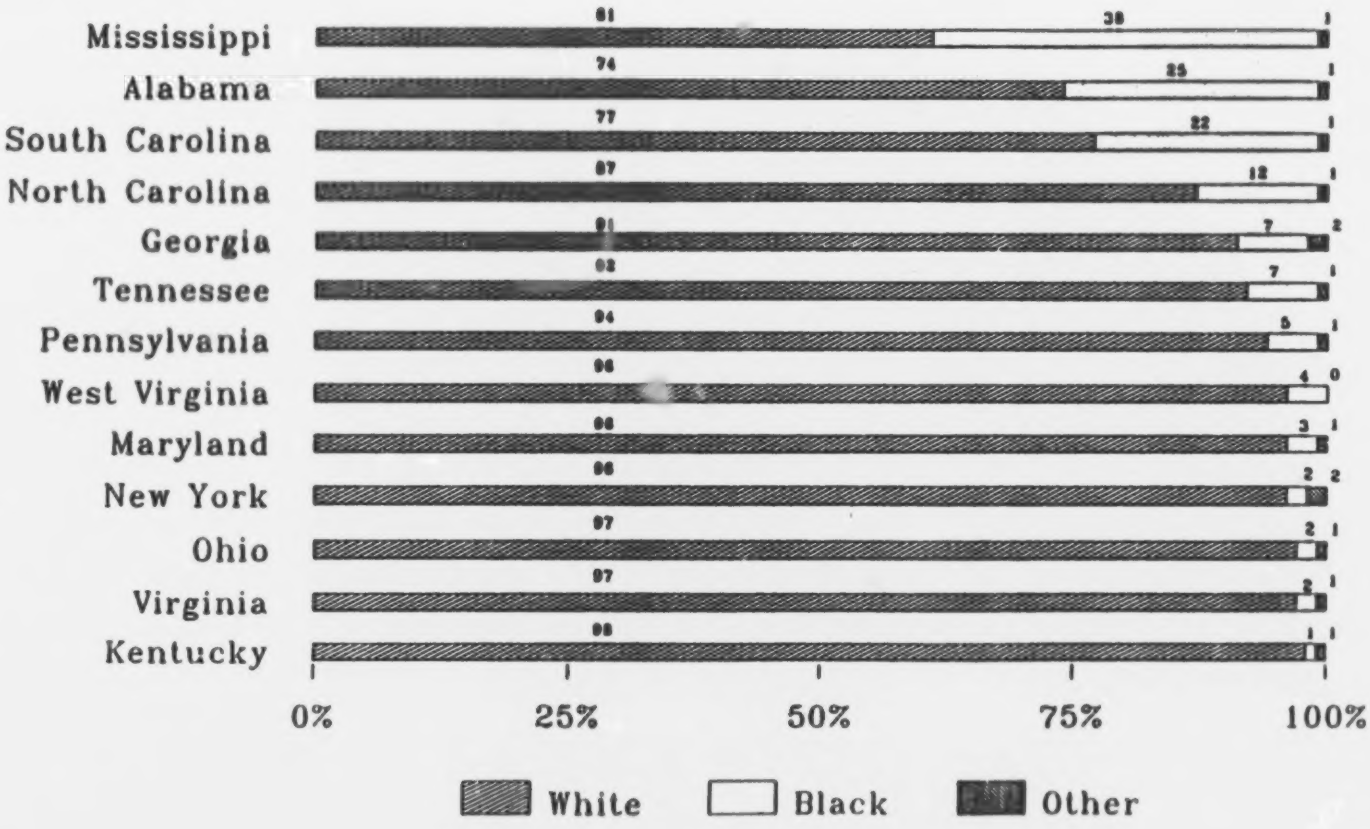
Figure 3. Percent of White and Black Children under 18, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P118, P119.

Figure 4. Percent of White and Black Children under 18, 1990 Census.

Appalachian Portion of State



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Tables P118, P119.

▸ What share of Appalachia's total population is comprised of children?

(see Tables 5, 6, 7)

Children in Appalachia, as in the nation as a whole, represent only about a quarter of the residents in the region.

Patterns by Subregion

o Despite the notably smaller *number* of children residing in the Central compared to the Northern and Southern subregions (half a million versus more than two million as shown in Table 1) children in Central Appalachia represent a slightly larger *proportion* of the total population there (26 percent). Comparable figures for the North and South are 24 and 25 percent, respectively.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

o Children constitute about one-fourth of the population in the majority of Appalachian States. Notable exceptions include Mississippi with 28 percent, and Georgia, Kentucky, and Ohio with 27 percent each. Children in the Appalachian portions of Maryland, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania represent only 23 percent of the population.

▸ What share of Appalachia's total population is comprised of children?

(see Tables 5, 6, 7)

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Patterns by Subregion

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Table 5. Percent of Children in Population, Total, by Age, 1990 Census

		Percent Children in Population			
		< 18	< 6	6-11	12-17
Total US		26	9	9	8
Appalachian Region		25	8	8	8
Appalachian Subregion	North	24	8	8	8
	Central	26	8	9	10
	South	25	8	8	8
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	25	8	9	9
	Georgia	27	9	9	9
	Kentucky	27	8	9	10
	Maryland	23	8	8	8
	Mississippi	28	9	9	9
	New York	25	8	8	8
	North Carolina	23	7	7	8
	Ohio	27	8	9	9
	Pennsylvania	23	8	8	8
	South Carolina	24	8	8	8
	Tennessee	24	7	8	8
	Virginia	24	7	8	9
	West Virginia	25	7	8	9

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P13.

Table 6. Percent of Children in Population, Whites, by Age, 1990 Census

		Percent Children in Population			
		< 18	< 6	6-11	12-17
Total US		24	8	8	8
Appalachian Region		24	8	8	8
Appalachian Subregion of State	North	24	8	8	8
	Central	26	8	9	10
	South	24	8	8	8
Appalachian Portion	Alabama	24	8	8	8
	Georgia	26	9	9	8
	Kentucky	27	8	9	10
	Maryland	23	8	8	8
	Mississippi	24	8	8	8
	New York	25	8	8	8
	North Carolina	22	7	7	8
	Ohio	27	8	9	9
	Pennsylvania	23	7	8	8
	South Carolina	23	7	8	8
	Tennessee	23	7	8	8
	Virginia	24	7	8	9
	West Virginia	25	7	8	9

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P14.

Table 7. Percent of Children in Population, Blacks, by Age, 1990 Census

		Percent Children in Population			
		< 18	< 6	6-11	12-17
Total US		32	11	11	10
Appalachian Region		31	10	10	11
Appalachian Subregion	North	29	10	9	10
	Central	27	8	9	10
	South	32	10	11	11
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	32	10	11	11
	Georgia	31	11	10	10
	Kentucky	24	7	8	9
	Maryland	20	8	6	7
	Mississippi	37	12	13	12
	New York	28	9	8	11
	North Carolina	29	10	9	11
	Ohio	26	8	9	9
	Pennsylvania	30	11	10	10
	South Carolina	32	11	10	11
	Tennessee	30	10	10	10
	Virginia	24	7	8	9
	West Virginia	29	9	10	10

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P14.

Table 8. Number of Children in the Population, by Age Group, 1990 Census.

		Number of Children		
		Less than 6	6 to 11	12 to 17
Total US		21,604,123	21,107,263	19,814,133
Appalachian Region		1,604,909	1,690,800	1,712,609
Appalachian Subregion	North	758,848	797,894	789,498
	Central	150,966	177,385	194,579
	South	695,095	715,521	728,532
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	202,298	215,175	214,979
	Georgia	136,490	132,450	127,829
	Kentucky	81,530	93,959	102,014
	Maryland	17,102	17,172	16,349
	Mississippi	45,134	47,731	47,319
	New York	90,012	90,261	84,188
	North Carolina	93,462	95,023	101,502
	Ohio	113,874	125,576	124,025
	Pennsylvania	433,101	445,758	437,682
	South Carolina	70,316	71,264	73,086
	Tennessee	157,999	166,677	176,317
	Virginia	35,823	40,785	44,949
	West Virginia	127,768	148,969	162,370

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P118.

▸ How has the size of the child population changed in the past decade?

(see Table 9; Figures 5, 6)

The number of children in Appalachia has declined by 11 percent since 1980. In contrast, the number of children in the total U.S. remained about the same across the decade. As a proportion of the overall population, however, children represent only a slightly smaller share in 1990 versus 1980 in both Appalachia (26 versus 28 percent) and the nation as a whole (25 versus 28 percent) (see Tables 5 and 11).

Patterns by Subregion

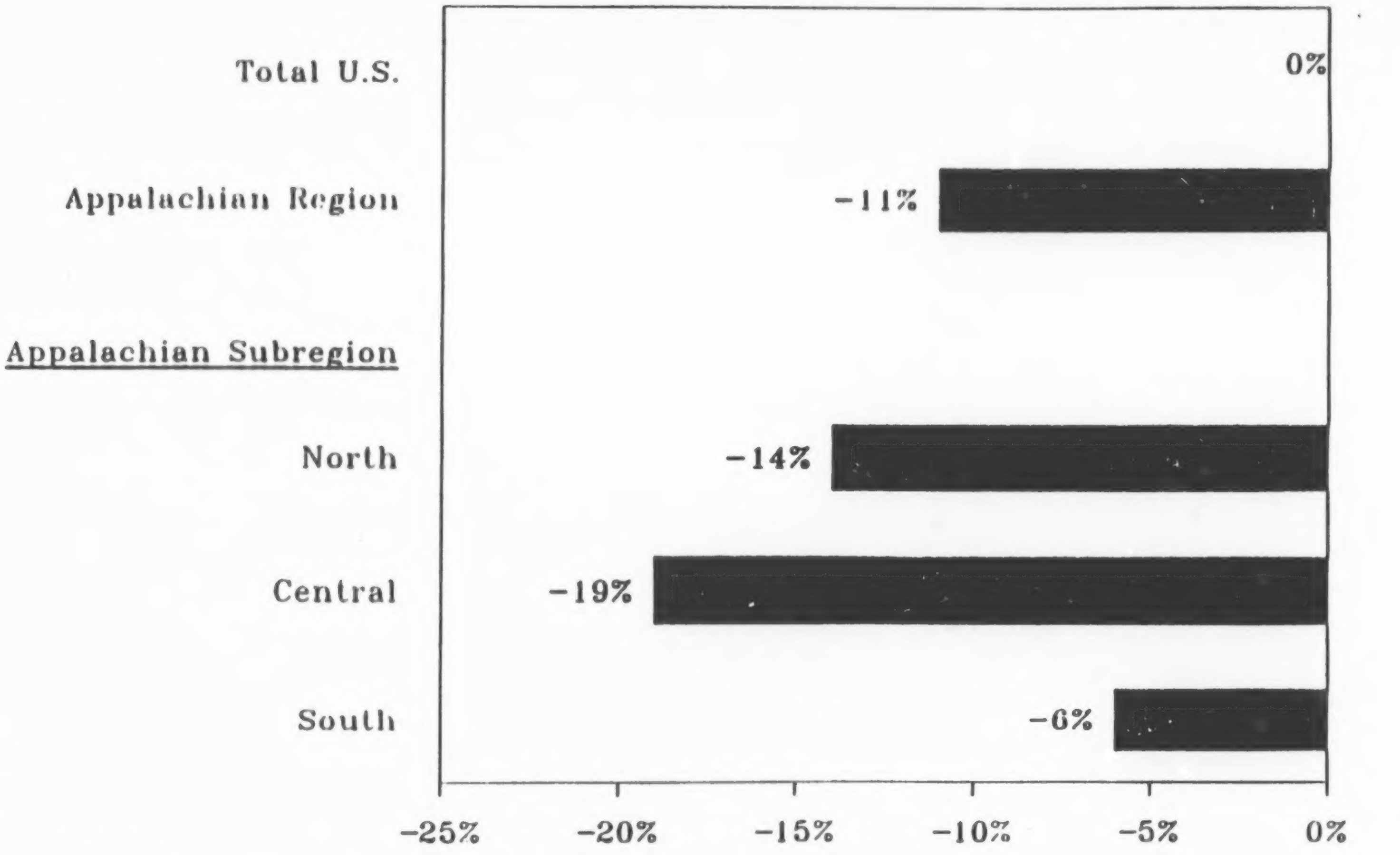
- Central Appalachia, including the State of West Virginia and parts of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, has seen the biggest decline in child population -- 19 percent -- compared to the Northern (14 percent) and Southern (6 percent) subregions.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

- Appalachian Georgia is the only one of the 13 State portions comprising the region that showed an increase in its child population since 1980 -- 19 percent.

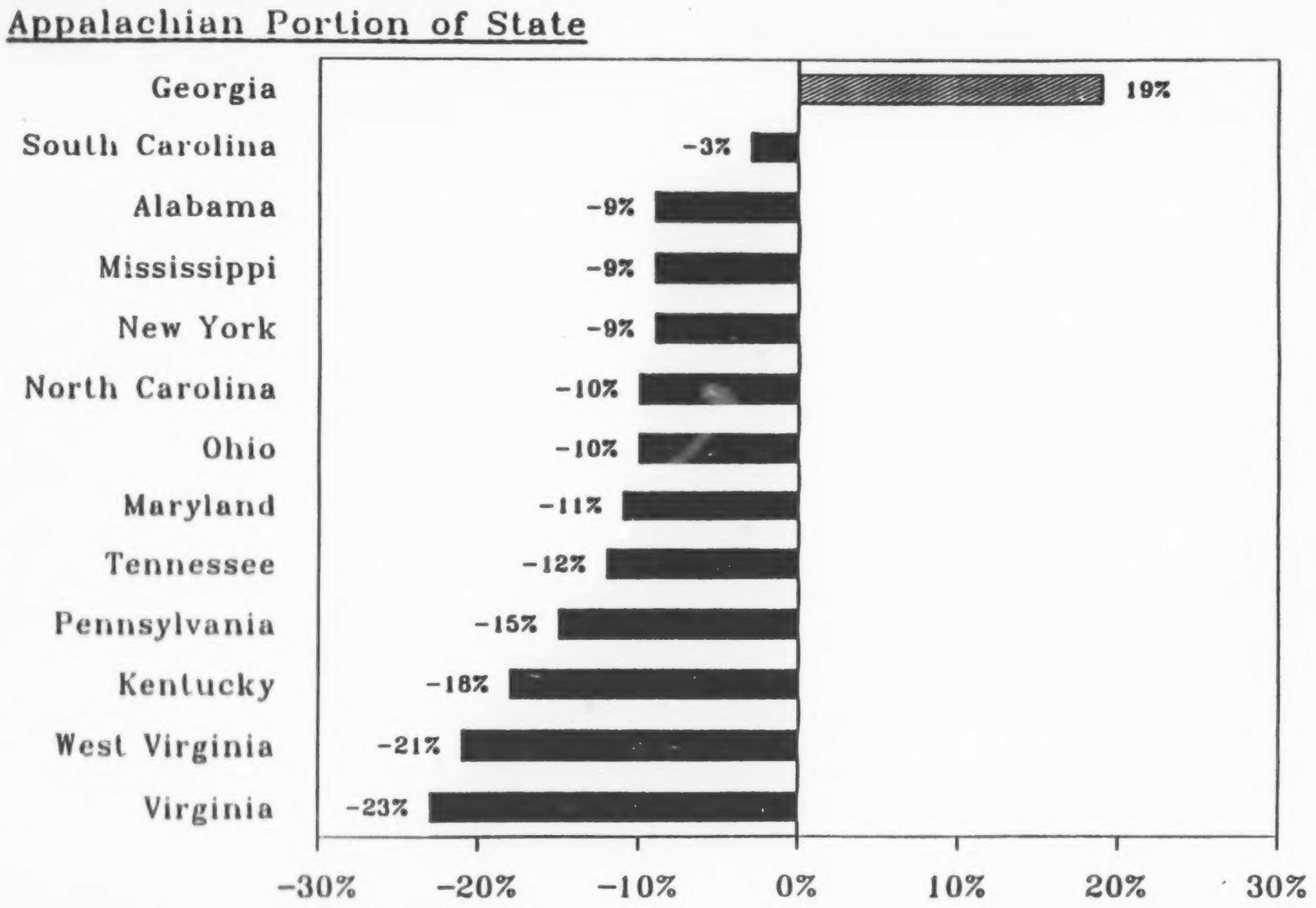
- The largest declines in the population over the decade were seen in Appalachian Virginia (- 23 percent), West Virginia (- 21 percent), Kentucky (- 18 percent), and Pennsylvania (- 15 percent), whereas the Appalachian portion of South Carolina (3 percent) showed the smallest decrease.

Figure 5: Percent Change in Child Population
1980 to 1990



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), P13.

Figure 6. Percent Change in Child Population
1980 to 1990



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P13.

Table 9. Percent Change in Child Population, 1980 to 1990

		Percent Change in Child Population		
		Number of Children 1980	Number of Children 1990	Percent Population Change
Total US		63,754,960	63,606,544	0
Appalachian Region		5,723,591	5,072,555	-11
Appalachian Subregion	North	2,770,930	2,378,194	-14
	Central	655,942	528,325	-19
	South	2,296,719	2,166,036	-6
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	705,349	639,449	-9
	Georgia	337,467	401,419	19
	Kentucky	340,845	280,264	-18
	Maryland	58,195	51,821	-11
	Mississippi	154,901	141,588	-9
	New York	298,025	269,781	-9
	North Carolina	328,885	294,586	-10
	Ohio	409,395	367,649	-10
	Pennsylvania	1,568,486	1,333,549	-15
	South Carolina	225,146	217,412	-3
	Tennessee	578,111	507,524	-12
	Virginia	159,150	123,307	-23
	West Virginia	559,636	444,206	-21

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P13, Age Record.

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Table 10. Percent of Children in Population, by Age, 1980 Census

		Percent Children in Population				
		<18	<5	5-17	5-14	15-17
Total US		28	7	21	15	6
Appalachian Region		28	7	21	16	5
Appalachian Subregion	North	27	7	20	15	5
	Central	31	8	23	17	6
	South	29	7	22	16	6
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	29	7	22	16	6
	Georgia	31	8	23	17	6
	Kentucky	32	8	23	18	6
	Maryland	26	6	20	15	6
	Mississippi	31	8	23	17	6
	New York	28	7	21	15	6
	North Carolina	27	6	21	15	5
	Ohio	30	8	22	16	6
	Pennsylvania	26	6	20	15	5
	South Carolina	28	7	21	16	5
	Tennessee	28	7	21	16	5
	Virginia	29	7	22	16	6
	West Virginia	29	7	21	16	5

Source: Tabulations of 1980 USA Counties data by Child Trends, Inc.

▸ How does the share of children in Appalachia compare to the older population?

(*see Tables 10, 12*)

The Appalachian region is comprised of a slightly higher proportion of adults ages 65 or older (14 percent) than is the total U.S. Like the nation as a whole, the population in Appalachia is aging. In 1980, older adults represented 12 percent of the population in Appalachia, while 14 percent of the population was 65 or older in 1990. Comparable 1980 and 1990 figures for the percent of older adults in the U.S. are 11 and 13 percent, respectively. Appalachia's share of black adults ages 65 or older (10 percent) is slightly higher than the national figure (8 percent).

Patterns by Subregion

- Sixteen percent of the population in Northern Appalachia is 65 years of age or older, compared to 13 percent in the Southern and Central subregions. In 1980, older adults represented 13 percent of the population in Northern Appalachia, and 11 percent of those in the Central and Southern subregions.

- Central Appalachia has a notably higher share of older black adults (17 percent) than either of the other subregions (10 and 11 percent).

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

- Appalachian Pennsylvania has the largest share of older adults -- 17 percent, followed by the Appalachian portions of Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia, each with 15 percent.

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Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States (continued)

- The smallest percentages of adults ages 65 or older are found in Appalachian Georgia (10 percent) and South Carolina (12 percent).

- The percent of blacks ages 65 or older in the Appalachian State portions of Kentucky (15 percent), Virginia (16 percent), and West Virginia (16 percent) are among the highest in the region and are nearly twice as high as comparable figures for the nation as a whole.

Table 11. Percent of Adults Ages 65 or older in Population, by Race, 1990 Census

		Percent Adults 65 and Older in Population		
		Total	White	Black
Total US		13	14	8
Appalachian Region		14	15	10
Appalachian Subregion	North	16	16	11
	Central	13	13	17
	South	13	13	10
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	13	14	10
	Georgia	10	10	8
	Kentucky	13	13	15
	Maryland	15	16	6
	Mississippi	13	15	10
	New York	14	14	6
	North Carolina	15	15	11
	Ohio	14	14	11
	Pennsylvania	17	17	11
	South Carolina	12	13	9
	Tennessee	14	14	11
	Virginia	15	15	16
	West Virginia	15	15	16

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P13, P14.

Table 12. Percent of Adults Ages 65 and Older, 1980 Census

		Percent Adults Ages 65 and Older in Population Total
Total US		11
Appalachian Region		12
Appalachian Subregion	North	13
	Central	11
	South	11
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	11
	Georgia	10
	Kentucky	11
	Maryland	13
	Mississippi	12
	New York	12
	North Carolina	12
	Ohio	12
	Pennsylvania	13
	South Carolina	10
	Tennessee	11
	Virginia	12
	West Virginia	12

Source: Tabulations of 1980 USA Counties data by Child Trends, Inc.

Family Structure
and
Household Composition

Composition of Appalachian Families

The family is the primary building block of American society. Society relies on families to provide for the survival and healthy development of children. The nation as a whole has seen dramatic changes in patterns of family living over the past 30 years, some of which have had implications for the ability of families to sustain themselves and carry out traditional childrearing functions (Zill, 1993:3)[1].

In this section, we focus on the following questions related to the families that comprise Appalachia:

- How many families reside within the boundaries of the Appalachian region? How many are married-couple families? Female-headed families? Male-headed families?
- What percentage of families within each type have children?
- Among white and black families who have children, what share are married-couple families? Female-headed families? Male-headed families?
- What percentage of births in Appalachia are to teen mothers?
- How many and what percent of Appalachian children reside in specific types of families?

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[1] Zill, Nicholas. 1193 (Winter). "The changing realities of family life." *Aspen Quarterly*. 5(1):27-51.

▸ How many families reside within the boundaries of the Appalachian region? How many are married-couple families? Female-headed families? Male-headed families?

(*see Tables 13, 14, 15*)

Appalachia has nearly six million families (5,754,927) residing within its borders. The majority (5,351,031) of these families are white, while 360,651 are black. While most families in the region are comprised of married couples (4,718,619), sizable numbers of Appalachian families are female-headed (817,814) and male-headed (218,494). Among families with children, nearly one-half million (475,253) are headed by a mother only.

Patterns by Subregion

- More than two million families reside in Northern (2,698,924) and Southern (2,479,023) Appalachia, while just over one half million families live in the Central subregion (576,980).

- Markedly more black families reside in Southern Appalachia (276,652) than in either the Northern (73,803) or Southern (10,196) subregions.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

- The distribution of families across States varies considerably. The Appalachian portion of Pennsylvania (1,571,641) contributes by far the greatest number of families to the total. Appalachian Alabama follows as a distant second with 708,270 families. Furthermore, these two States contribute the greatest numbers regardless of family type.

o Although the above picture is reflected in the distribution among whites, the distribution of families among blacks is somewhat different. Appalachian Pennsylvania and Alabama are still the greatest contributors, but in the case of black families more than twice as many are found in Alabama (122,931) than in Pennsylvania (53,861). In addition, the next highest contributors of black families, South Carolina and Mississippi, are 10th and 12th, respectively, when contributors of white families are ranked.

o Not surprisingly, in every Appalachian State the vast majority of white families are married-couple families. However, black families are more evenly distributed between married-couple and female-headed. Although married-couple families are still the majority across the Appalachian states, a greater number of black families are female-headed than composed of a married-couple in Appalachian Pennsylvania.

Table 13. Number of Families in the Population by Family Type, Total, 1990 Census.

		Number of Families			
		Total	Married Couple	Female Headed	Male Headed
Total US		65,049,428	51,718,214	10,381,654	2,949,560
Appalachian Region		5,754,927	4,718,619	817,814	218,494
Appalachian Subregion	North	2,698,924	2,213,067	378,028	107,829
	Central	576,980	476,961	79,289	20,730
	South	2,479,023	2,028,591	360,497	89,935
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	708,270	572,277	111,222	24,771
	Georgia	426,063	360,115	50,686	15,262
	Kentucky	297,106	245,716	40,933	10,457
	Maryland	60,967	50,409	8,307	2,251
	Mississippi	139,454	109,265	24,827	5,362
	New York	278,296	228,904	37,158	12,234
	North Carolina	376,778	310,544	52,153	14,081
	Ohio	378,534	313,533	50,896	14,105
	Pennsylvania	1,571,641	1,283,374	224,678	63,589
	South Carolina	247,359	198,715	38,953	9,691
	Tennessee	615,726	506,644	87,260	21,822
	Virginia	151,705	126,452	19,792	5,461
	West Virginia	503,028	412,671	70,949	19,408

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table 0123

Table 14. Number of Families in the Population by Family Type, White, 1990 Census.

		Number of White Families			
		Total	Married Couple	Female Headed	Male Headed
Total US		53,845,200	45,178,672	6,540,382	2,126,146
Appalachian Region		5,351,031	4,498,852	658,537	193,642
Appalachian Subregion	North	2,607,079	2,163,449	341,444	102,186
	Central	564,446	469,840	74,753	19,853
	South	2,179,506	1,865,563	242,340	71,603
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	579,184	502,144	59,891	17,149
	Georgia	397,029	342,203	41,676	13,150
	Kentucky	292,574	242,977	39,489	10,108
	Maryland	59,497	49,554	7,803	2,140
	Mississippi	103,794	90,345	10,268	3,181
	New York	271,201	224,332	35,145	11,724
	North Carolina	343,717	292,716	39,029	11,972
	Ohio	370,058	308,119	48,330	13,609
	Pennsylvania	1,508,217	1,251,475	197,025	59,717
	South Carolina	209,004	178,834	22,912	7,258
	Tennessee	581,625	488,361	73,308	19,956
	Virginia	148,130	124,325	18,581	5,224
	West Virginia	487,001	403,467	65,080	18,454

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

Table 15. Number of Families in the Population by Family Type, Black, 1990 Census.

		Number of Black Families			
		Total	Married Couple	Female Headed	Male Headed
Total US		7,055,063	3,521,382	3,045,283	488,398
Appalachian Region		360,651	185,068	153,309	22,274
Appalachian Subregion	North	73,803	35,340	33,795	4,668
	Central	10,196	5,273	4,168	755
	South	276,652	144,455	115,346	16,851
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	122,931	64,964	50,683	7,284
	Georgia	22,627	12,588	8,489	1,550
	Kentucky	3,639	2,044	1,308	287
	Maryland	1,104	553	442	109
	Mississippi	34,892	18,298	14,452	2,142
	New York	3,160	1,696	1,252	212
	North Carolina	29,143	15,060	12,260	1,823
	Ohio	6,498	3,918	2,238	342
	Pennsylvania	53,861	24,157	26,301	3,403
	South Carolina	36,577	18,321	15,917	2,339
	Tennessee	29,700	14,706	13,316	1,678
	Virginia	3,089	1,722	1,143	224
	West Virginia	13,430	7,041	5,508	881

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

▸ What percentage of families within each type have children?

(see Tables 16, 17)

Families differ in their likelihood of having children. About half of married-couple families (49 percent) have children compared to 60 percent of female-headed families in Appalachia. These patterns are fairly similar to those for the total U.S. (49 and 65 percent, respectively).

Patterns by Subregion

o Greater percentages of married-couple families in Central Appalachia have children than in either of the other two subregions. A greater share of female-headed families have children in Southern Appalachia.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

o While approximately half of the married-couple families have children in the majority of Appalachian States, the percentages are noticeably smaller in a few -- the Appalachian portions of North Carolina (44 percent), Maryland (45 percent), and Pennsylvania (45 percent). Female-headed families are notably more likely to have children in the Appalachian States of Mississippi (69 percent) and Ohio (66 percent).

o Regardless of type, families in the Appalachian portion of Pennsylvania are comparatively less likely to have children.

Table 16. Percent of Families Who Have Children, Total, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Who Have Children		
		Married-couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		49	65	51
Appalachian Region		47	60	48
Appalachian Subregion	North	46	58	47
	Central	51	60	50
	South	48	63	50
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	48	64	48
	Georgia	52	63	51
	Kentucky	52	62	52
	Maryland	45	60	48
	Mississippi	51	69	52
	New York	48	64	57
	North Carolina	44	60	51
	Ohio	50	66	52
	Pennsylvania	45	55	42
	South Carolina	48	64	52
	Tennessee	46	60	48
	Virginia	47	56	49
	West Virginia	48	60	51

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc..

Table 17. Number of Families Who Have Children, Total, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Number of Families Who Have Children		
		Married-couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		42,389,635	6,305,888	2,092,632
Appalachian Region		3,843,694	475,253	146,004
Appalachian Subregion	North	1,782,910	220,741	70,915
	Central	390,701	45,050	13,445
	South	1,670,083	209,462	61,644
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	469,515	63,042	16,229
	Georgia	298,902	30,549	10,782
	Kentucky	201,048	23,527	6,858
	Maryland	40,845	5,190	1,640
	Mississippi	89,530	14,327	3,680
	New York	189,158	23,906	8,979
	North Carolina	259,077	30,946	10,009
	Ohio	256,828	32,179	9,556
	Pennsylvania	1,019,850	125,968	40,487
	South Carolina	162,449	23,112	6,750
	Tennessee	416,023	50,153	14,793
	Virginia	102,527	10,763	3,616
	West Virginia	337,942	41,591	12,625

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P22

▸ Among white and black families who have children, what share are married-couple families? Female-headed families? Male-headed families?

(*see Table 18, 19; Figures 7, 8, 9*)

In a pattern mirroring the nation as a whole, the vast majority of white families with children in Appalachia are married-couple families (82 percent), while this is true of fewer than half of the black families with children (46 percent) in the region. Moreover, 15 percent of white families with children in Appalachia are female-headed, compared to 49 percent of black families with children.

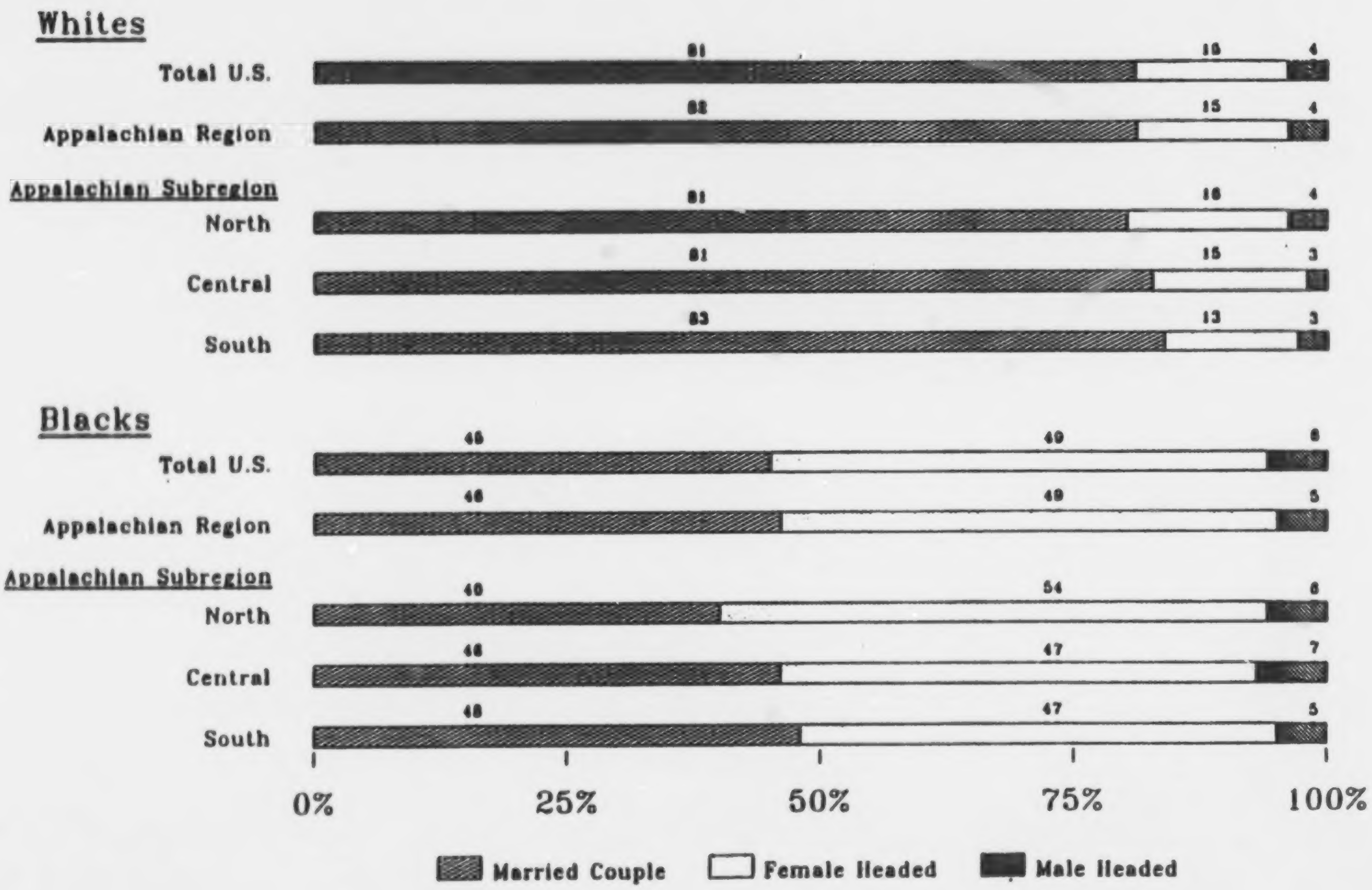
Patterns by Subregion

o There is little Subregional variation in the proportion of married-couple families among white families with children in Appalachia; however, the pattern for black families in Northern Appalachia is different than for the other subregions. While nearly half of the black families with children in Southern (48 percent) and Central (46 percent) Appalachia are married-couple families, only 40 percent of those in the North fit this description.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

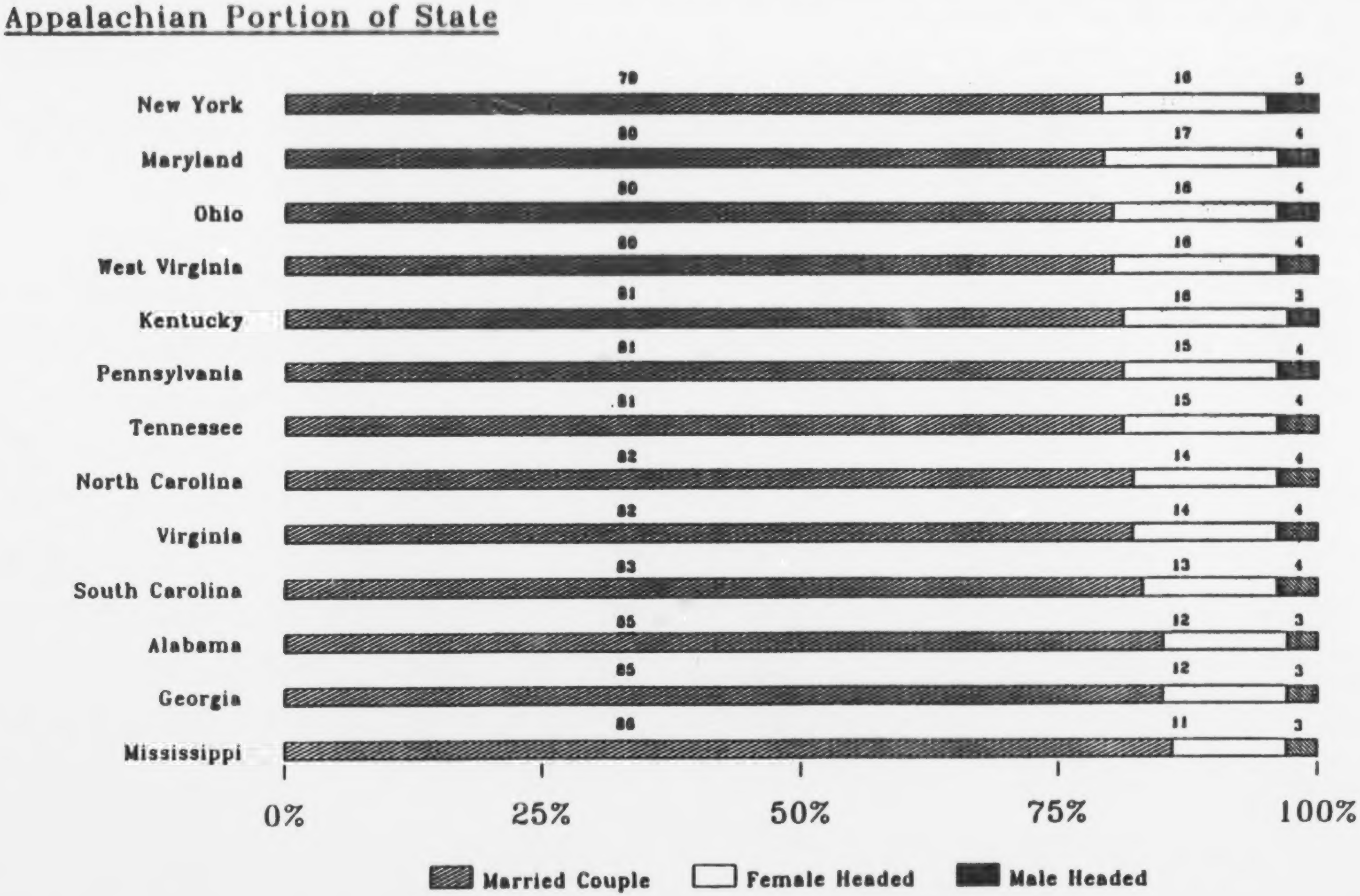
o Appalachian States differ little in the distribution of family types among white families with children; however, the composition of the population of black families with children varies markedly across Appalachian States. Fifty-eight percent of the black families with children in Appalachian Pennsylvania are female-headed, followed by Appalachian Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina with 52, 49, and 48 percent, respectively. In contrast, Appalachian States with smaller percentages of mother-only families among the population of black families include Kentucky (41 percent), Georgia, and Ohio (42 percent each).

Figure 7. Percent of Families by Type, Families with Children under 18, by Race, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P118, P119.

Figure 8. Percent of Families by Type, White Families with Children under 18, 1990 Census.


Appalachian Portion of State

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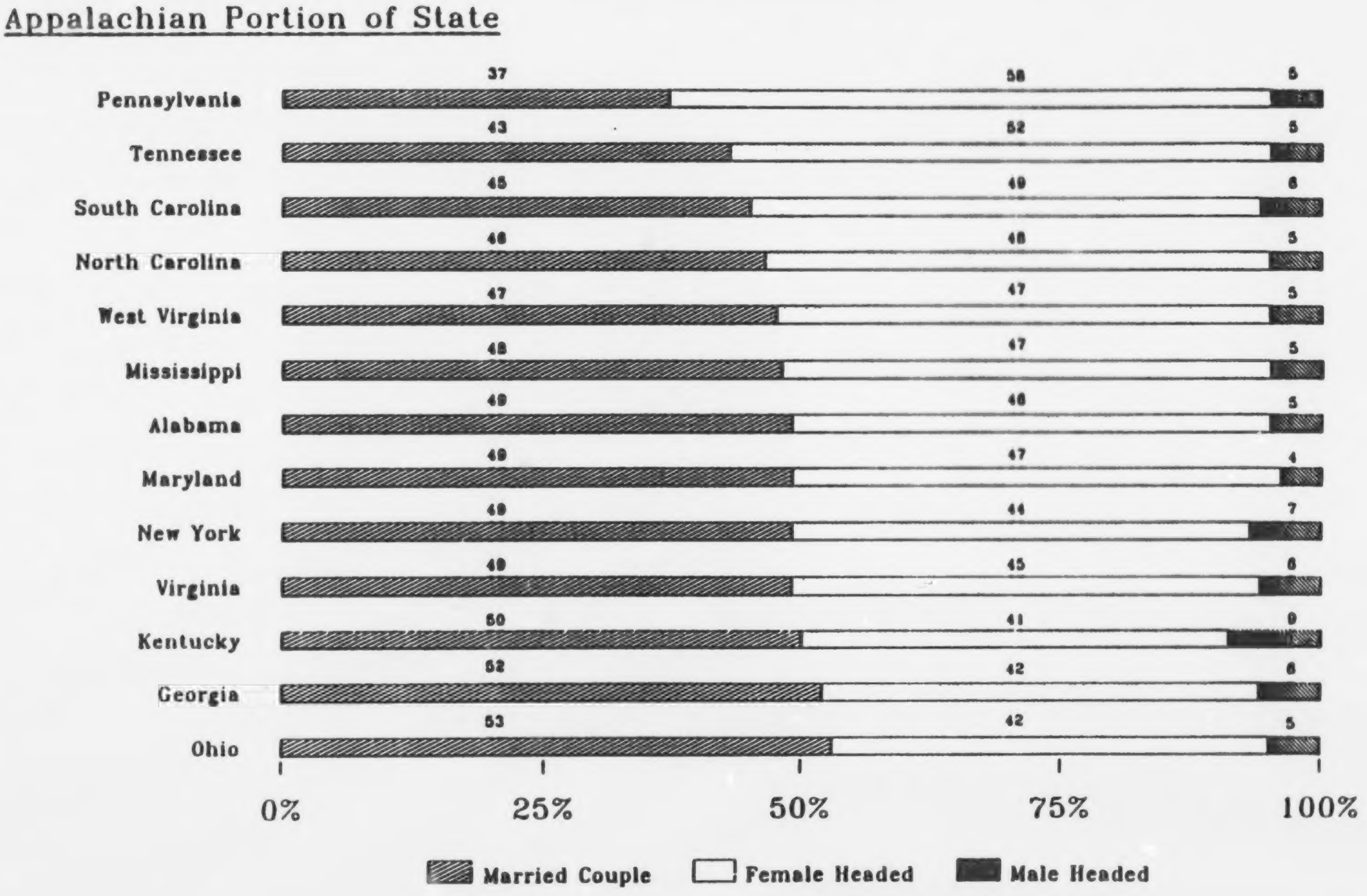
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Tables P119.

Figure 9. Percent of Families by Type, Black Families with Children under 18, 1990 Census.


Appalachian Portion of State

Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Tables P118, P119.

Table 18. Percent of Families by Type, White Families with Children Under 18, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families with Children under 18		
		Married Couple	Female Headed	Male Headed
Total US		81	15	4
Appalachian Region		82	15	4
Appalachian Subregion	North	81	16	4
	Central	81	15	3
	South	83	13	3
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	85	12	3
	Georgia	85	12	3
	Kentucky	81	16	3
	Maryland	80	17	4
	Mississippi	86	11	3
	New York	79	16	5
	North Carolina	82	14	4
	Ohio	80	16	4
	Pennsylvania	81	15	4
	South Carolina	83	13	4
	Tennessee	81	15	4
	Virginia	82	14	4
	West Virginia	80	16	4

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Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Tables P118, P106.

Table 19. Percent of Families by Type, Black Families with Children Under 18, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families with Children under 18		
		Married Couple	Female Headed	Male Headed
Total US		45	49	6
Appalachian Region		46	49	5
Appalachian Subregion	North	40	54	6
	Central	46	47	7
	South	48	47	5
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	49	46	5
	Georgia	52	42	6
	Kentucky	50	41	9
	Maryland	49	47	4
	Mississippi	48	47	5
	New York	49	44	7
	North Carolina	46	48	5
	Ohio	53	42	5
	Pennsylvania	37	58	5
	South Carolina	45	49	6
	Tennessee	43	52	5
	Virginia	49	45	6
	West Virginia	47	47	5

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Tables P118, P106.

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▸ What percentage of births in Appalachia are to teen mothers?

(*see Table 20*)

The proportion of births to teen mothers in Appalachia is greater than that of the nation as a whole. While trends in the mid- to late-1980s showed a decline in teen birth rates, national level data (currently unavailable for the Appalachian region separately) suggest that these figures have probably taken an upswing since that time. More specifically, the percent of all first births to mothers under age 20 in the total U.S. was 24 percent in both 1988 and 1989 (Moore, 1993)[2].

Patterns by Subregion

o The proportion of births to teen mothers is distinctly higher in the Central subregion (21 percent in 1987) than in either of the other subregions (12 and 17 percent). It is interesting to recall that this region has the highest proportion of whites compared to other subregions. Since teen childbearing is typically higher among black women (Moore, 1993), this finding is noteworthy.

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[2] Moore, Kristin A. 1993. *Facts at a Glance*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

o While the percent of births to teens declined in every Appalachian State over the period from 1980 to 1987, there is some variation between States in the percentages. The highest percent of births to teen mothers is found in Appalachian Kentucky (22 percent in 1987). However, in the Appalachian portions of New York and Pennsylvania the percentages are lower (11 percent each in 1987) than even the national average.

Table 20. Percent Births to Teen Mothers, 1980, 1984, and 1987

		Percent Births to Teen Mothers		
		1980	1984	1987
Total US		16	13	12
Appalachian Region		18	16	15
Appalachian Subregion	North	15	13	12
	Central	24	22	21
	South	20	18	17
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	20	18	17
	Georgia	20	17	16
	Kentucky	25	24	22
	Maryland	18	15	15
	Mississippi	22	20	19
	New York	13	12	11
	North Carolina	19	17	16
	Ohio	18	16	16
	Pennsylvania	13	11	11
	South Carolina	20	18	17
	Tennessee	20	18	17
	Virginia	21	18	17
	West Virginia	20	18	17

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Source: Tabulations of 1980 USA Counties data by Child Trends, Inc.

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▸ How many and what percent of Appalachian children reside in specific types of families?

(*see Table 21; Figure 10*)

The family data presented thus far can also be viewed from the perspective of children. Doing so reveals that the majority of children in Appalachia, as in the nation, reside in married-couple families. Seventy-eight percent of Appalachian children live with two-parents, 18 percent are in female-headed families, and 4 percent are in families headed by a male only. Although these data for children were not available separately by race, the data showing the percent of black female-headed families with children presented in Table 19 suggest that the proportion of black children residing in two-parent families is notably lower than for whites (Table 18).

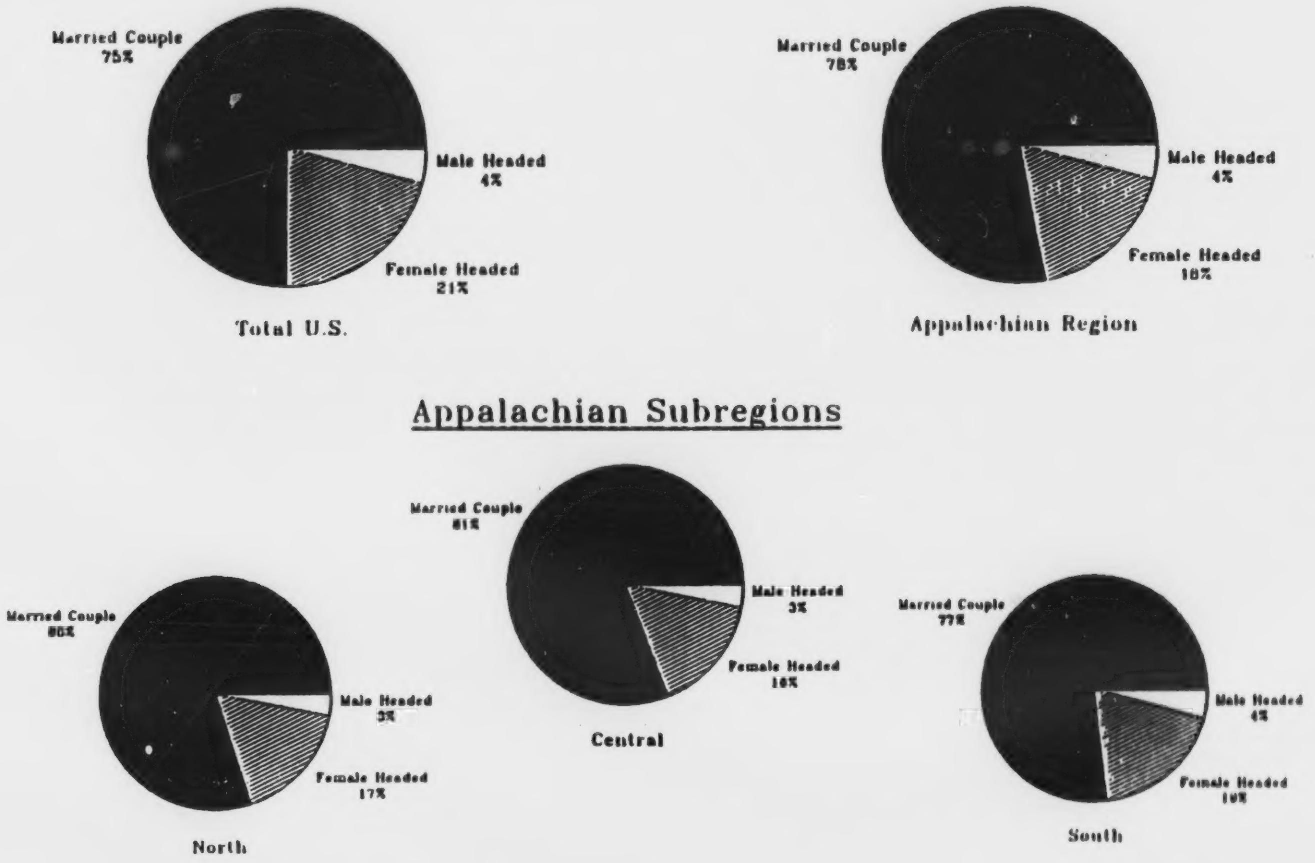
Patterns by Subregion

o About eight in ten Appalachian children reside in married-couple families, regardless of subregion. Children in Southern Appalachia are somewhat more likely to live in female-headed families in comparison to the other subregions.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

o The percentage of children living in mother-headed families ranges from 26 percent in Appalachian Mississippi to 15 percent in the Appalachian portions of Georgia and Virginia.

Figure 10. Percent of Children in Household Types, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P23,P26,P41.
* The percentages are rounded to represent 100 total percent

Table 21. Percent of Children in Household Types, 1990 Census

		Percent of Children in Household Types				
		Married-couple	Female-headed	Male-headed	Instiutionalized Group Quarters	Other Group Quarters
Total US		75	21	4	0	0
Appalachian Region		78	18	4	0	0
Appalachian Subregion	North	79	17	3	0	0
	Central	80	16	3	0	0
	South	77	19	4	0	0
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	75	21	4	0	0
	Georgia	82	15	3	0	0
	Kentucky	80	16	3	0	0
	Maryland	78	18	3	1	0
	Mississippi	70	26	4	0	0
	New York	79	16	4	0	0
	North Carolina	77	18	4	0	0
	Ohio	80	17	3	0	0
	Pennsylvania	80	17	3	0	0
	South Carolina	74	22	4	0	0
	Tennessee	78	18	4	0	0
	Virginia	81	15	4	0	0
	West Virginia	79	17	4	0	0

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P23, P26, P41.

Table 22. Number of Children in Household Types, 1990 Census

		Number of Children in Household Types				
		Married-couple	Female-headed	Male-headed	Institutionalized Group Quarters	Other Group Quarters
Total US		45,667,594	12,710,044	2,501,455	144,981	105,198
Appalachian Region		3,835,931	867,116	176,125	11,611	6,245
Appalachian Subregion	North	1,832,930	386,963	80,725	5,169	2,979
	Central	408,367	81,389	17,460	605	652
	South	1,594,634	398,764	77,940	5,837	2,614
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	460,493	129,094	22,013	2,081	358
	Georgia	316,106	56,603	12,888	459	181
	Kentucky	216,620	43,148	9,222	333	408
	Maryland	38,964	8,968	1,731	437	106
	Mississippi	95,218	34,702	5,261	198	253
	New York	205,385	42,596	11,251	870	482
	North Carolina	217,101	51,898	11,936	1,230	645
	Ohio	284,869	59,487	12,328	391	119
	Pennsylvania	1,031,720	218,544	42,148	2,779	1,806
	South Carolina	153,901	44,979	8,690	612	186
	Tennessee	380,403	86,963	18,157	1,161	877
	Virginia	95,551	18,054	4,216	347	305
	West Virginia	339,600	72,080	16,284	713	519

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P23, P26, P41.

Income and Poverty

Measures of Income and Poverty

In the nation as a whole, the proportion of children in poverty showed substantial increases in the late 1970s and early 1980s, after dramatic declines in the 1960s and only minor increases in the 1970s. In this section, we focus on poverty among children in Appalachia providing answers to the following specific questions:

- What percentage of Appalachian children live in poverty? How many children are poor?
- How does the risk of poverty among children in Appalachia differ by family type?
- How do child poverty rates in Appalachia compare to those of the older population there?
- What is the mean income for families in Appalachia?
- How does the risk of poverty vary by the age of the householder?
- How does the risk of family poverty in Appalachia differ by race?
- How does family poverty vary by ages of children?
- How does family poverty differ for families without children?

▸ What percentage of Appalachian children live in poverty? How many children are poor?
(see Tables 23, 24, 25; Figures 11-16)

About one in five children living in Appalachia were classified as falling below the poverty line in 1990 -- only slightly higher than the percent of children in the total U.S. (18 percent) classified as poor. Children less than six are more likely to be poor (23 percent) than those ages 12 to 17 (18 percent). In addition, black children in Appalachia are markedly more likely to be poor (43 percent) than white children (18 percent), however the disparity between the two groups is slightly smaller in Appalachia than it is for the total U.S. (40 versus 12 percent).

Twelve percent of children in Appalachia were recipients of public assistance in 1990 -- mirroring the proportion for the nation as a whole.

Patterns by Subregion

o Children living in the Central subregion of Appalachia are the most disadvantaged of the subregions. One third were below the poverty line in 1990. Moreover, the percent poor among children less than six is nearly double for the Central (37 percent) versus the Northern (22 percent) and Southern (20 percent) subregions of Appalachia.

o Subregional patterns among whites resemble those of the total U.S., with nearly a third of children in the Central region in poverty -- ranking their poverty level the highest of the three Appalachian subregions.

Patterns by Subregion (continued)

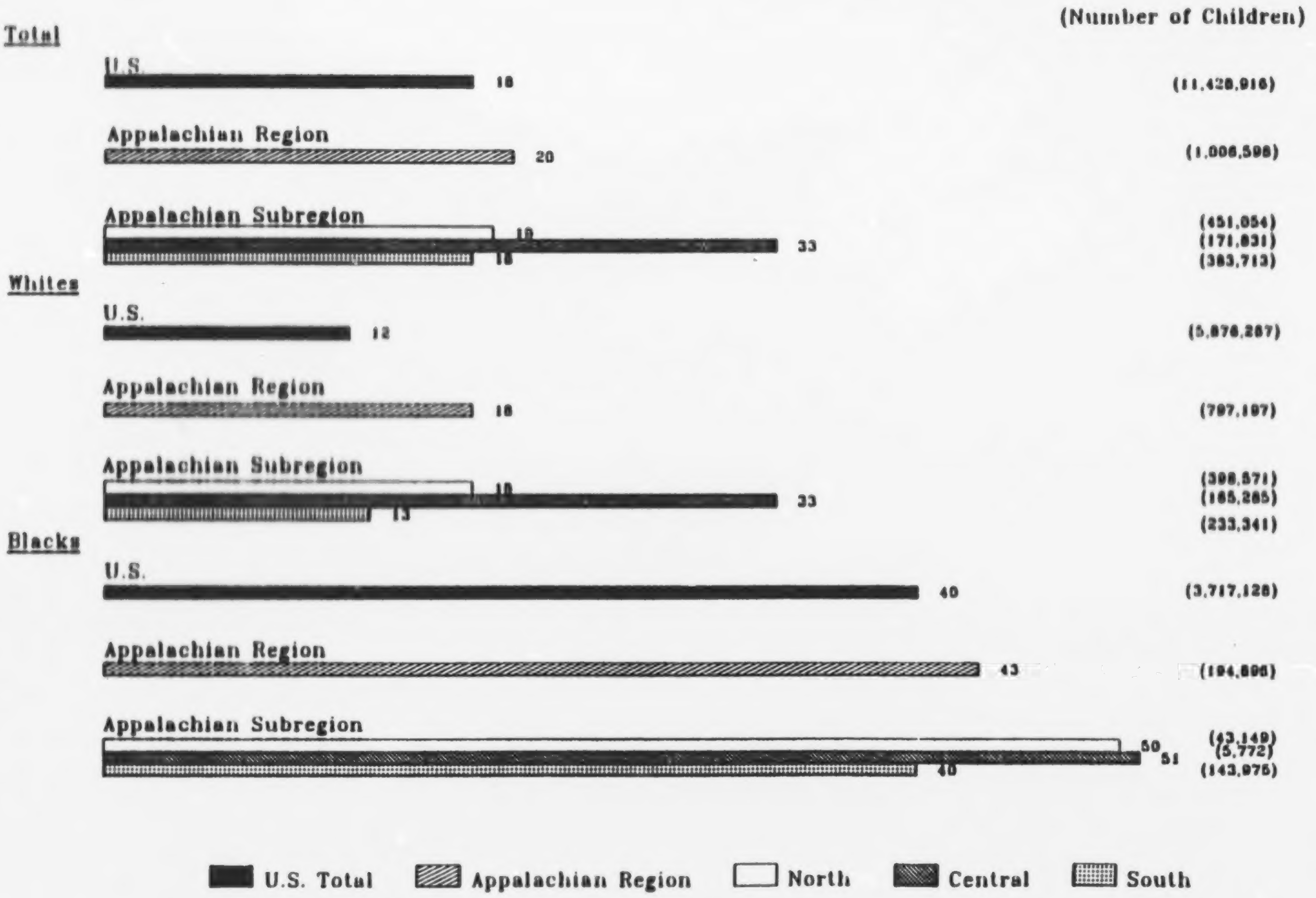
o Black children in Appalachian subregions have consistently higher percentages classified as poor than white children. While both the largest proportion and number of black children in Appalachia are found in its Southern subregion, forty percent of black children there are classified as poor. This compares to half of the black children in Northern and Central Appalachia.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

o When child poverty levels are compared across the States that comprise Appalachia, children in Kentucky fare the worst -- 36 percent are classified as poor -- followed by Mississippi and West Virginia with 28 and 26 percent, respectively. Appalachian States with the lowest proportions of poor children include Georgia (12 percent), North Carolina and South Carolina (15 percent each).

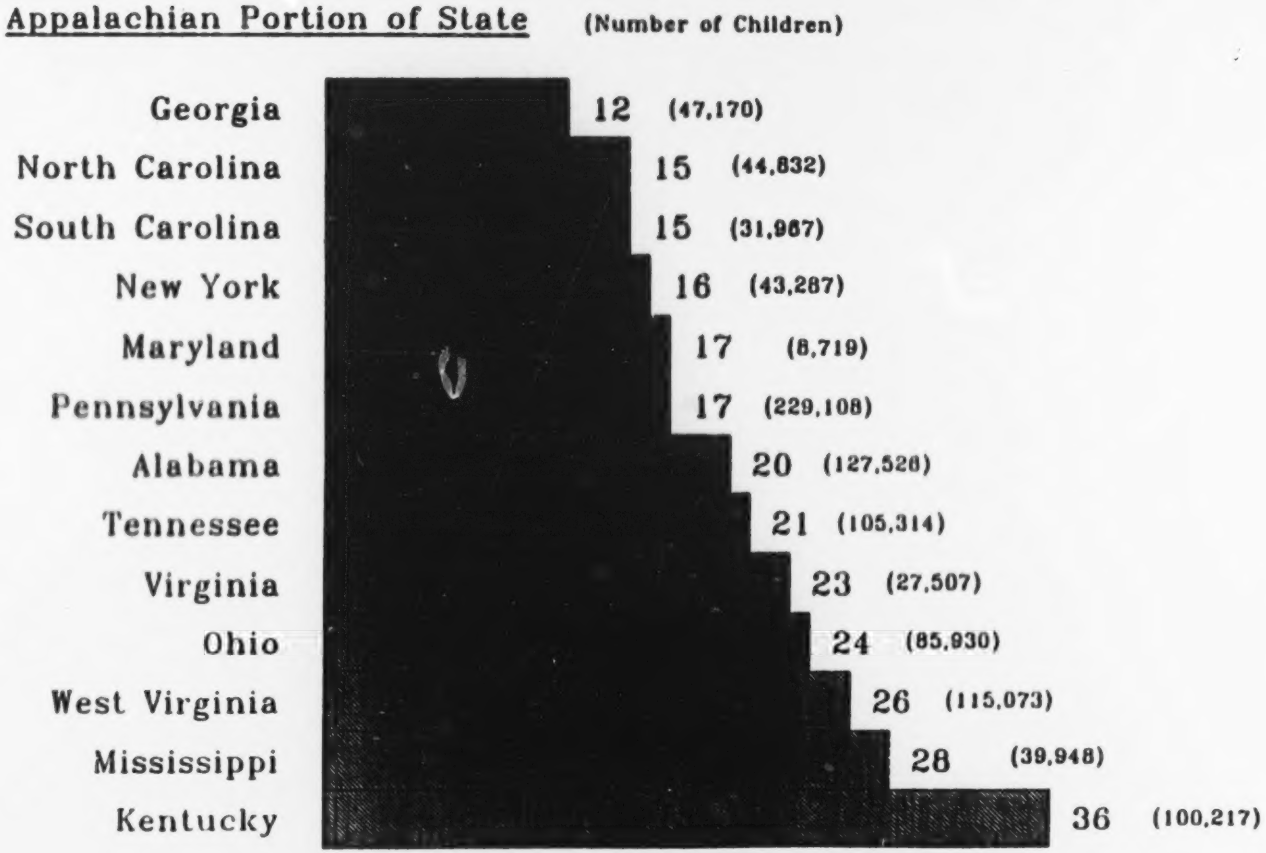
o About half of the black children are classified as poor in the Appalachian portions of Mississippi, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and Kentucky. Among black children ages six or younger, the figure reaches about 60 percent in the Appalachian portions of most of those same States.

Figure 11. Percent of Children under 18 in Poverty, by Race, 1990 Census.



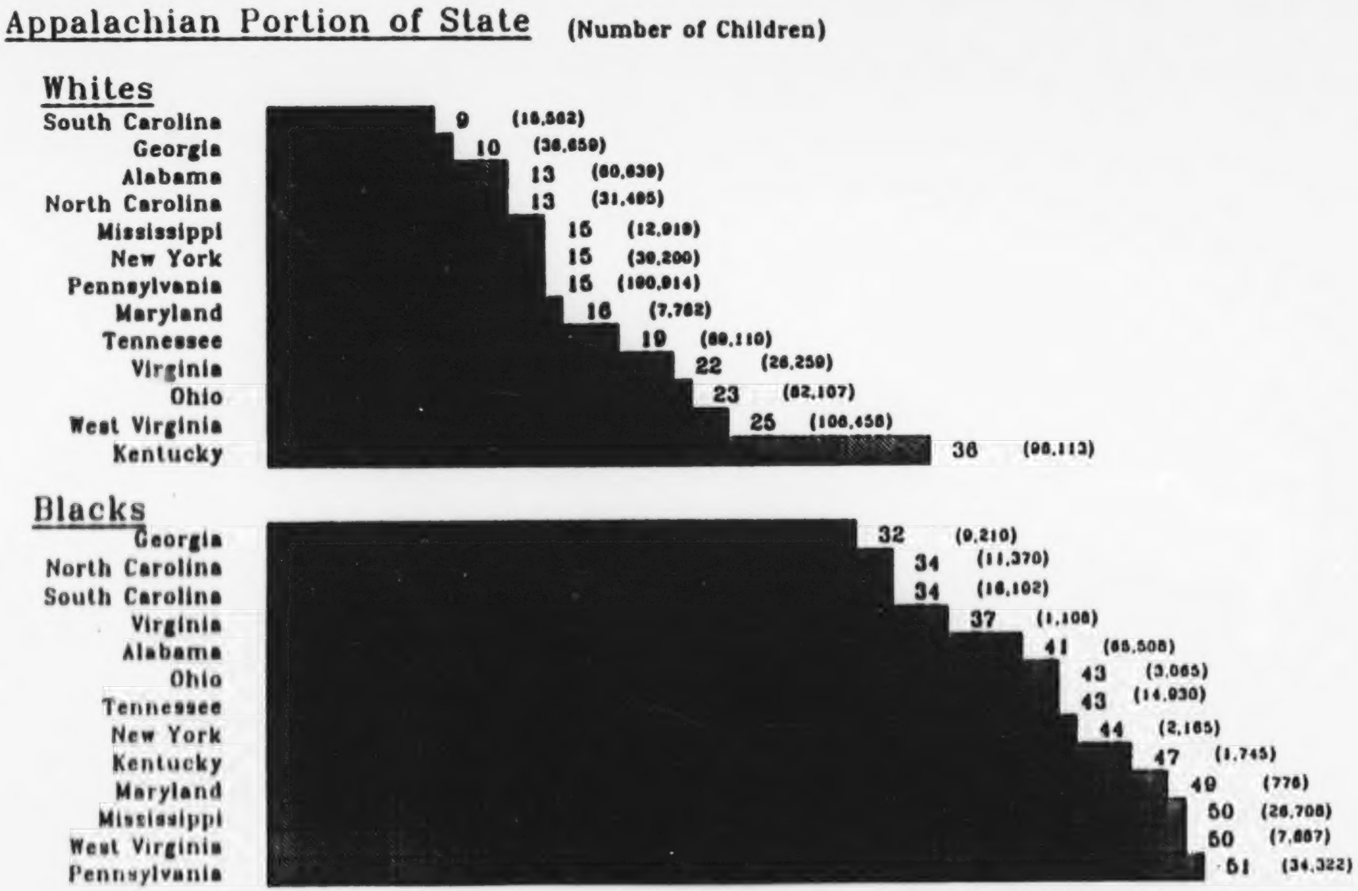
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P118, P119.

Figure 12. Percent of Children under 18 in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



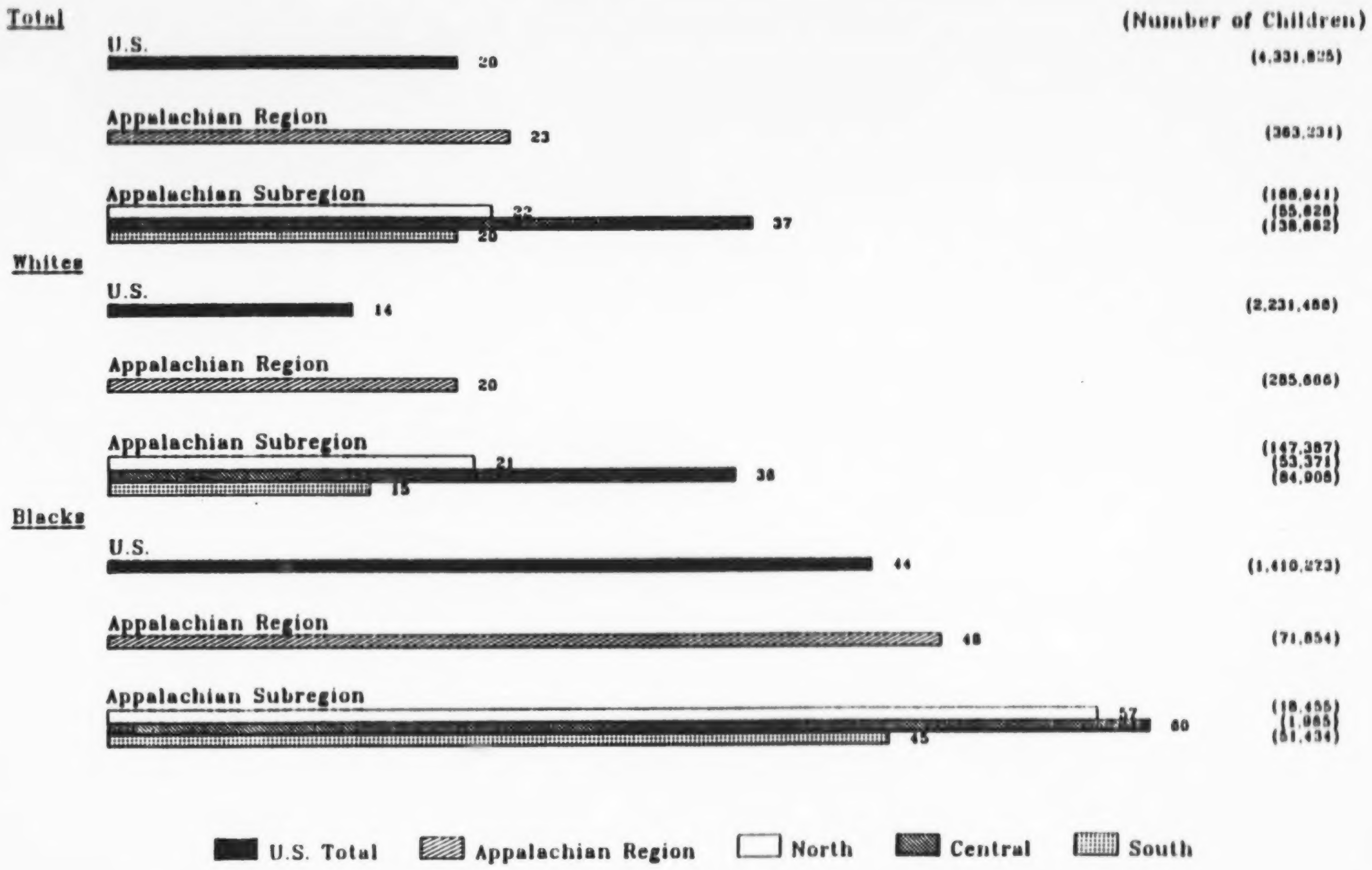
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P118

Figure 13. Percent of Children under 18 in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, by Race, 1990 Census.



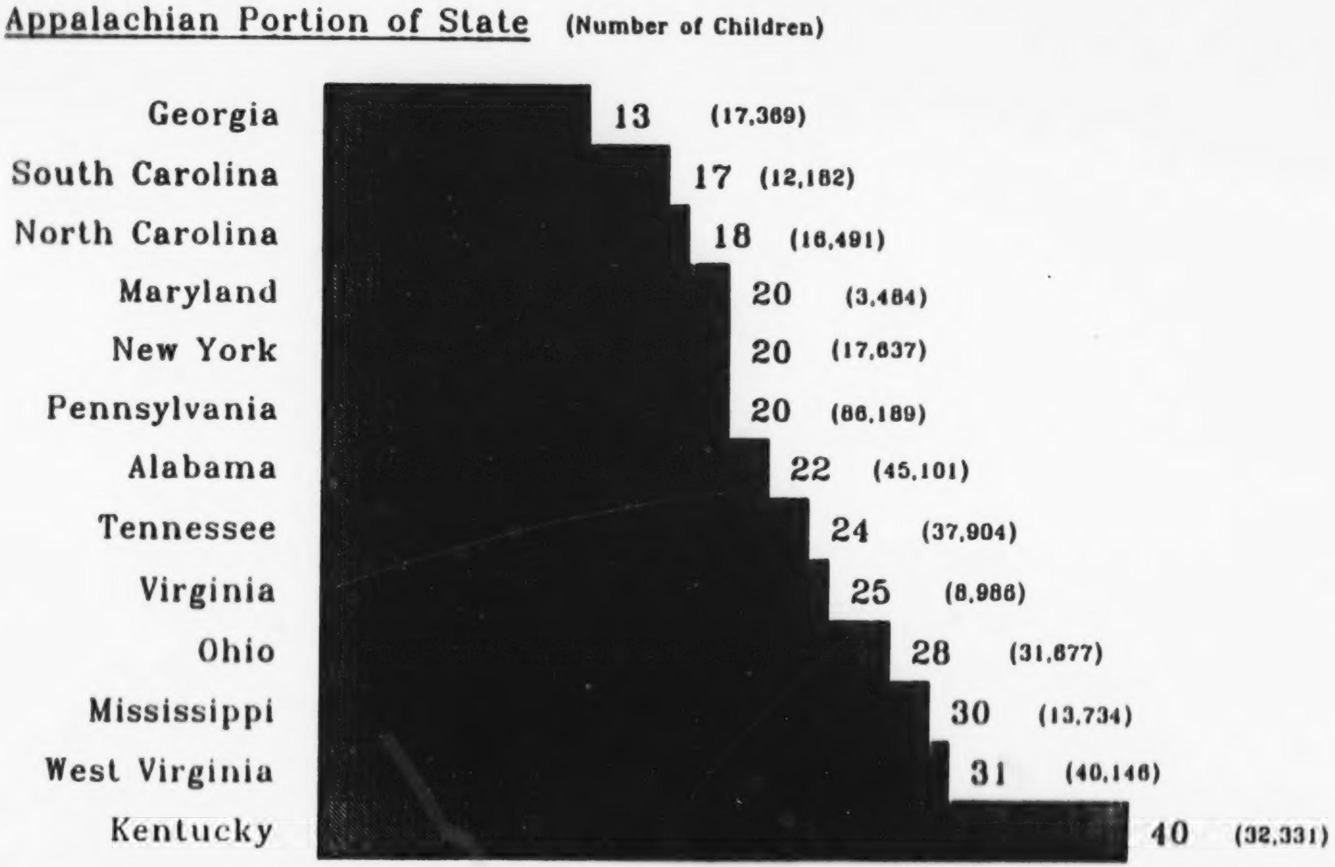
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P119

Figure 14. Percent of Children under 6 in Poverty, by Race, 1990 Census.



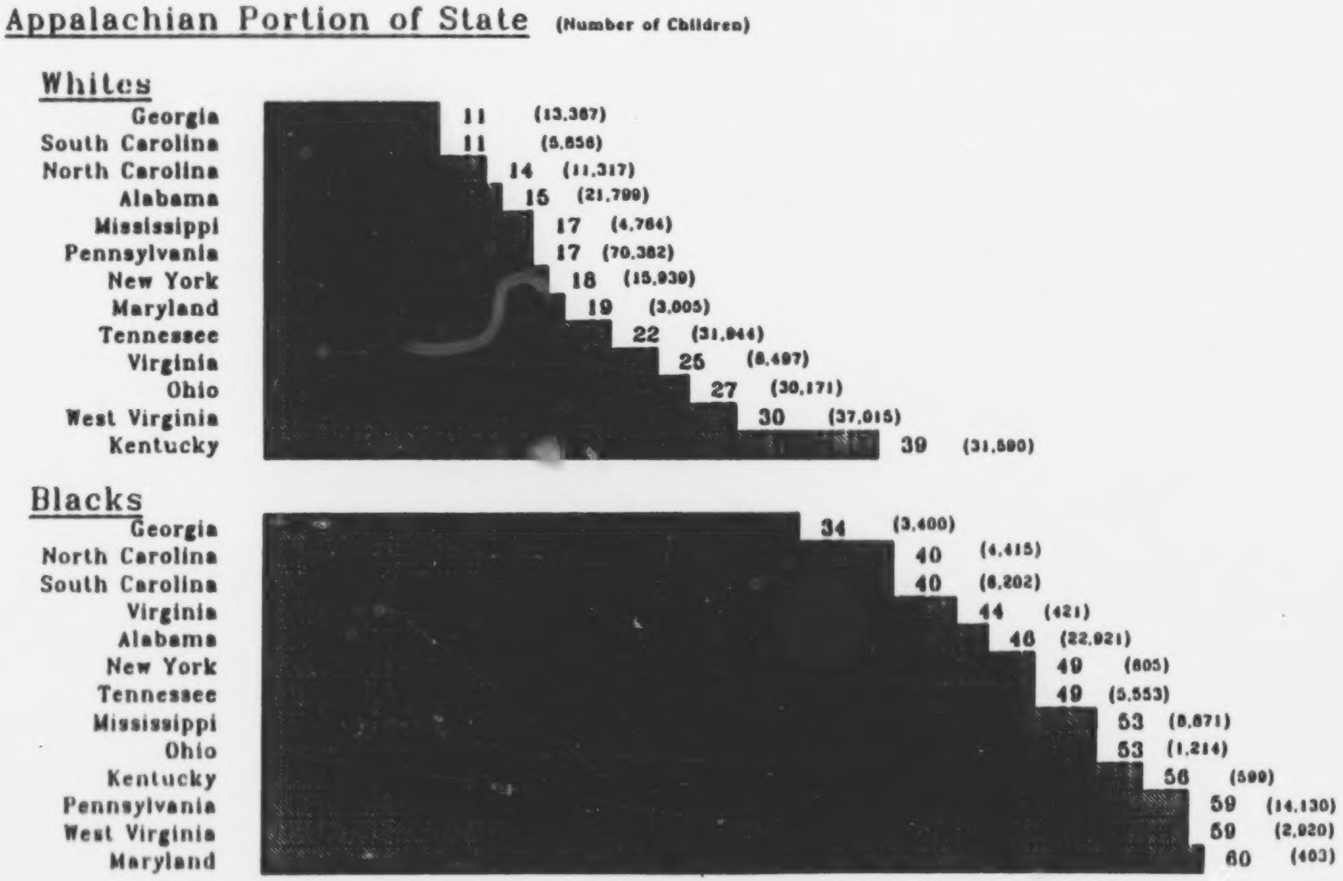
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P119, P118.

Figure 15: Percent of Children under 6 in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P118

Figure 16. Percent of Children under 6 in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, by Race, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P119.

Table 23. Percent of Children Below Poverty Level, Total, by Age, 1990 Census

		Percent of Children Below Poverty Level				
		<18	<6	6-11	12-17	<15 with Public Assistance
Total US		18	20	18	16	12
Appalachian Region		20	23	20	18	12
Appalachian Subregion of State	North	19	22	19	16	13
	Central	33	37	33	30	17
	South	18	20	18	16	9
Appalachian Portion	Alabama	20	22	20	18	9
	Georgia	12	13	12	11	6
	Kentucky	36	40	36	34	18
	Maryland	17	20	18	13	13
	Mississippi	28	30	29	26	15
	New York	16	20	16	13	11
	North Carolina	15	18	15	14	8
	Ohio	24	28	24	20	18
	Pennsylvania	17	20	17	15	12
	South Carolina	15	17	15	13	8
	Tennessee	21	24	21	18	11
	Virginia	23	25	22	21	11
	West Virginia	26	31	26	22	15

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc.,
Tables 0110, 0106

Table 24. Percent of Children Below Poverty Level, Whites, by Age, 1990 Census

		Percent of Children Below Poverty Level			
		<18	<6	6-11	12-17
Total US		12	14	13	11
Appalachian Region		18	20	18	16
Appalachian Subregion	North	18	21	18	15
	Central	33	36	32	30
	South	13	15	13	12
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	13	15	13	12
	Georgia	10	11	10	9
	Kentucky	36	39	36	33
	Maryland	16	19	17	12
	Mississippi	15	17	15	14
	New York	15	18	15	12
	North Carolina	13	14	12	11
	Ohio	23	27	24	19
	Pennsylvania	15	17	16	13
	South Carolina	9	11	9	8
	Tennessee	19	22	19	17
	Virginia	22	25	22	21
	West Virginia	25	30	25	22

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P119.

Table 25. Percent of Children Below Poverty Level, Blacks, by Age, 1990 Census

		Percent of Children Below Poverty Level			
		<18	<6	6-11	12-17
Total US		40	44	40	36
Appalachian Region		43	48	42	38
Appalachian Subregion	North	50	57	47	43
	Central	51	60	47	47
	South	40	45	41	36
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	41	46	41	37
	Georgia	32	34	32	31
	Kentucky	47	56	42	46
	Maryland	49	60	42	38
	Mississippi	50	53	50	48
	New York	44	49	45	38
	North Carolina	34	40	33	29
	Ohio	43	53	38	38
	Pennsylvania	51	59	49	45
	South Carolina	34	40	34	29
	Tennessee	43	49	44	35
	Virginia	37	44	34	32
	West Virginia	50	59	47	45

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P119.

Table 26. Number of Children Below Poverty Level, Total, by Age, 1990 Census

		Number of Children Below Poverty Level			
		<18	<6	6-11	12-17
Total US		11,428,916	4,331,825	3,870,105	3,226,986
Appalachian Region		1,006,598	363,231	339,607	303,760
Appalachian Subregion	North	451,054	168,941	153,741	128,372
	Central	171,831	55,628	57,939	58,264
	South	383,713	138,662	127,927	117,124
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	127,526	45,101	43,110	39,315
	Georgia	47,170	17,369	15,748	14,053
	Kentucky	100,217	32,331	33,593	34,293
	Maryland	8,719	3,484	3,118	2,117
	Mississippi	39,948	13,734	13,739	12,475
	New York	43,287	17,637	14,686	10,964
	North Carolina	44,832	16,491	14,462	13,879
	Ohio	85,930	31,677	30,017	24,236
	Pennsylvania	229,108	86,189	77,865	65,054
	South Carolina	31,967	12,182	10,407	9,378
	Tennessee	105,314	37,904	35,216	32,194
	Virginia	27,507	8,986	9,127	9,394
	West Virginia	115,073	40,146	38,519	36,408

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Tables P118, P106.

Table 27. Number of Children Below Poverty Level, Whites, by Age, 1990 Census

		Number of Children Below Poverty Level			
		<18	<6	6-11	12-17
Total US		5,876,267	2,231,488	2,004,442	1,640,337
Appalachian Region		797,197	285,666	269,776	241,755
Appalachian Subregion	North	398,571	147,387	137,287	113,897
	Central	165,285	53,371	55,809	56,105
	South	233,341	84,908	76,680	71,753
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	60,639	21,799	19,966	18,874
	Georgia	36,659	13,387	12,291	10,981
	Kentucky	98,113	31,590	32,938	33,585
	Maryland	7,762	3,005	2,830	1,927
	Mississippi	12,919	4,764	4,164	3,991
	New York	39,200	15,939	13,297	9,964
	North Carolina	31,495	11,317	10,324	9,854
	Ohio	82,107	30,171	28,790	23,146
	Pennsylvania	190,914	70,382	65,976	54,556
	South Carolina	15,562	5,856	5,121	4,585
	Tennessee	89,110	31,944	29,487	27,679
	Virginia	26,259	8,497	8,756	9,006
	West Virginia	106,458	37,015	35,836	33,607

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P119.

Table 28. Number of Children Below Poverty Level, Blacks, by Age, 1990 Census

		Number of Children Below Poverty Level			
		<18	<6	6-11	12-17
Total US		3,717,128	1,410,273	1,248,639	1,058,216
Appalachian Region		194,896	71,854	64,984	58,058
Appalachian Subregion	North	45,149	18,455	14,187	12,507
	Central	5,772	1,965	1,845	1,962
	South	143,975	51,434	48,952	43,589
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	65,508	22,921	22,584	20,003
	Georgia	9,210	3,400	3,040	2,770
	Kentucky	1,745	599	513	633
	Maryland	776	403	219	154
	Mississippi	26,708	8,871	9,463	8,374
	New York	2,165	805	715	645
	North Carolina	11,370	4,415	3,493	3,462
	Ohio	3,065	1,214	925	926
	Pennsylvania	34,322	14,130	10,817	9,375
	South Carolina	16,102	6,202	5,168	4,732
	Tennessee	14,930	5,553	5,216	4,161
	Virginia	1,108	421	346	341
	West Virginia	7,887	2,920	2,485	2,482

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P119.

▸ How does the risk of poverty among children in Appalachia differ by family type?

(*see Tables 29-31; Figures 17-20*)

It is well documented that the incidence of poverty varies significantly by the structure of families. Two-parent, married-couple families are the least likely to be poor, while female-headed families are at the greatest risk of poverty. In the nation as a whole, fewer than ten percent of children in married-couple families fall below the poverty line in 1990, compared to half of those living with their mothers only. One quarter of children living in a male-headed family are below the poverty level. Comparable figures for the Appalachian region are 12, 54, and 28 percent, respectively.

Patterns by Subregion

o Central Appalachia has a markedly greater percentage of families of all types falling below the poverty threshold in comparison to the Northern and Southern subregions. More than twice the share of married-couple families (26 percent) are poor in the Central versus the other subregions. Between 10 and twenty percent more female-headed families are also poor in this subregion.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

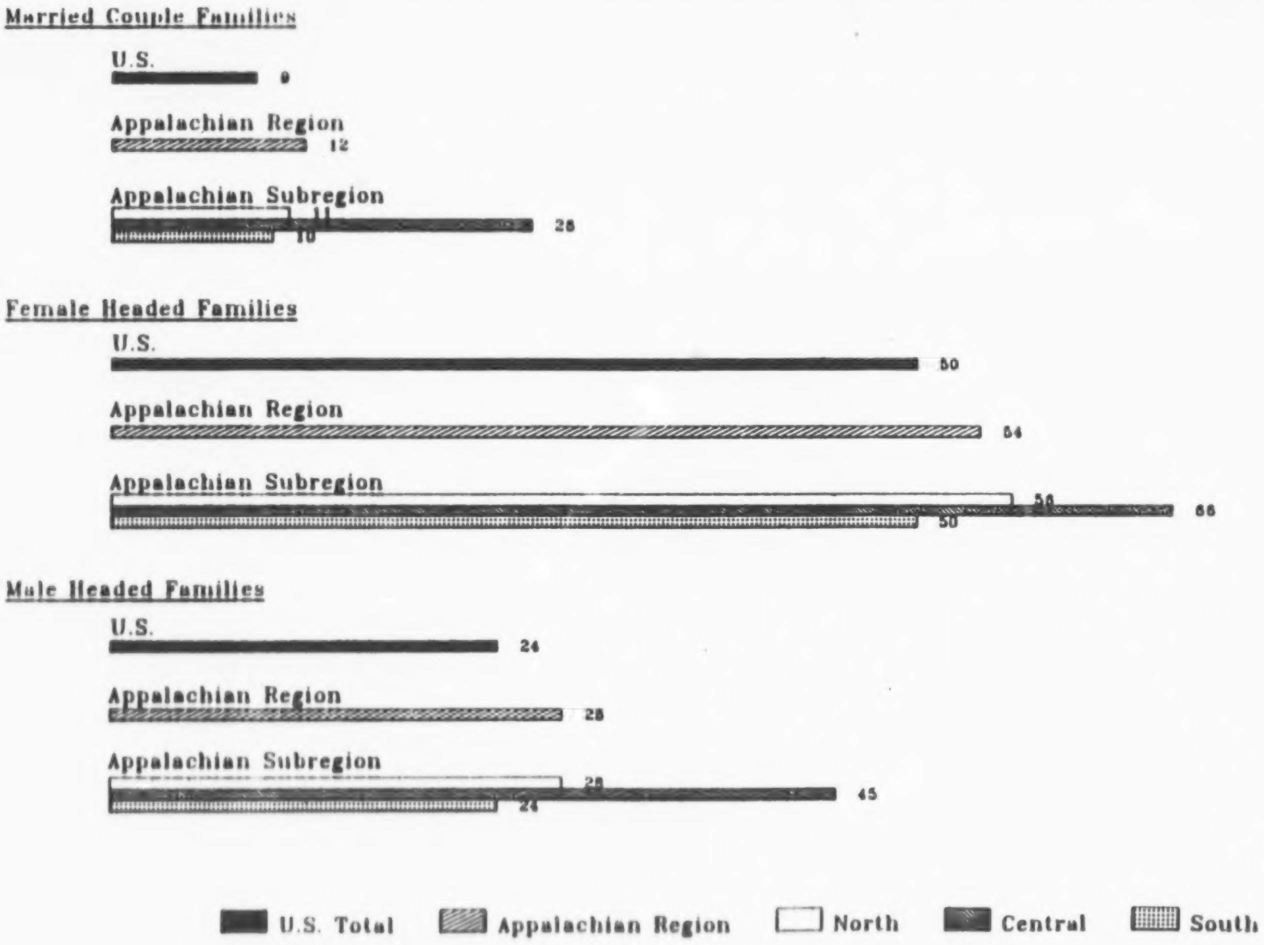
o While two-parent families are consistently less likely to be classified as poor than those headed by one parent across all of the State portions in the region, the percentages below the poverty level regardless of family type tend to be highest in Appalachian Kentucky. While their percentage of poor married-couple families is not comparatively high, the Appalachian portions of West Virginia, Alabama, Maryland, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia have distinctly high levels of poverty among female-headed families -- ranging from 55 to 67 percent poor.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States (continued)

- Children in mother-only families face particular economic hardship in Appalachian Kentucky and Mississippi, where 70 and 67 percent, respectively, are classified as poor in 1990.

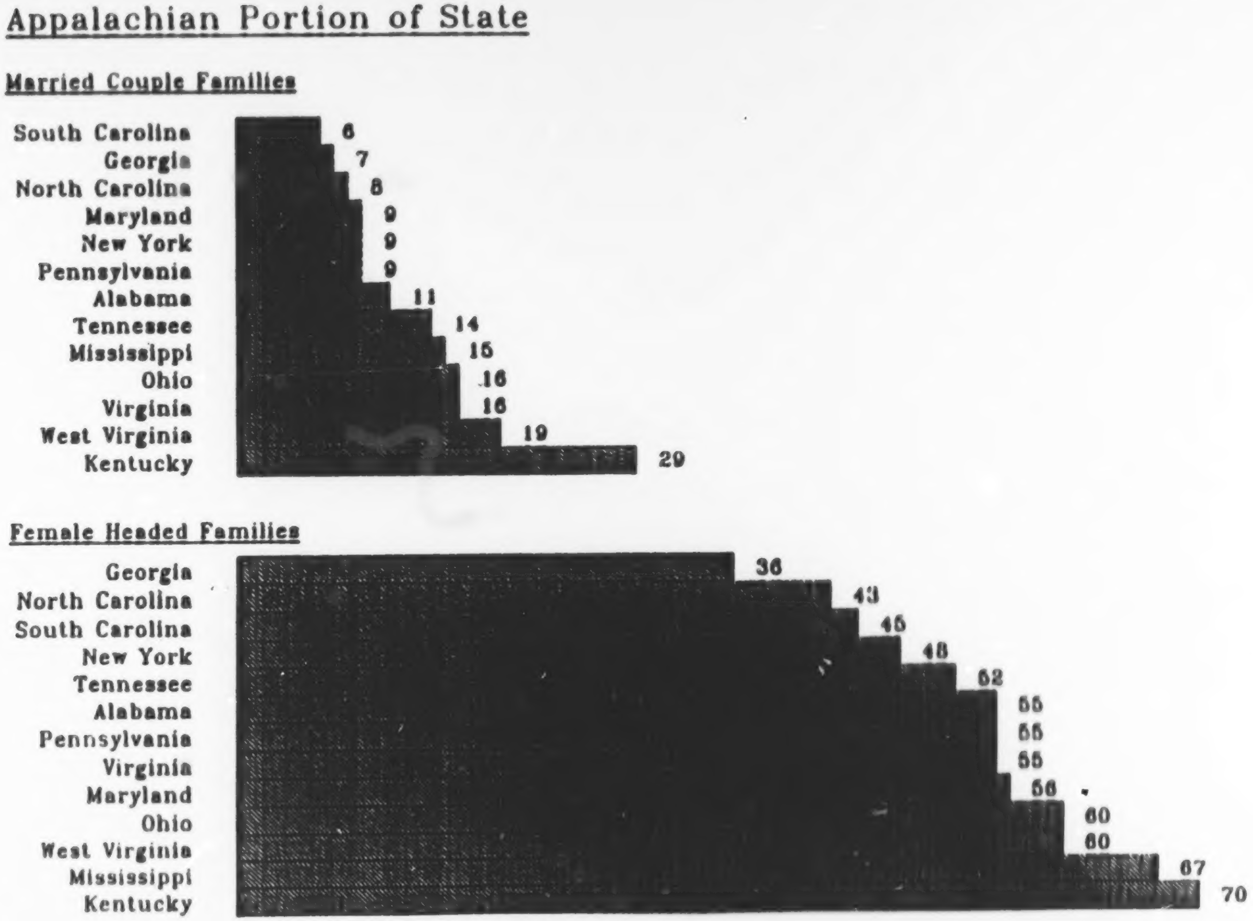
- Poverty is particularly common among very young children in female-headed families. With the exception of Georgia (45 percent), the majority of children aged 6 or less in families headed by mothers are classified as poor. Among children ages 6 to 17 in mother-only families, poverty rates are notably lower, ranging from 33 percent in Appalachian Georgia to 66 percent in Appalachian Kentucky.

Figure 17. Percent of Children under 18 in Poverty, by Family Type, 1990 Census.



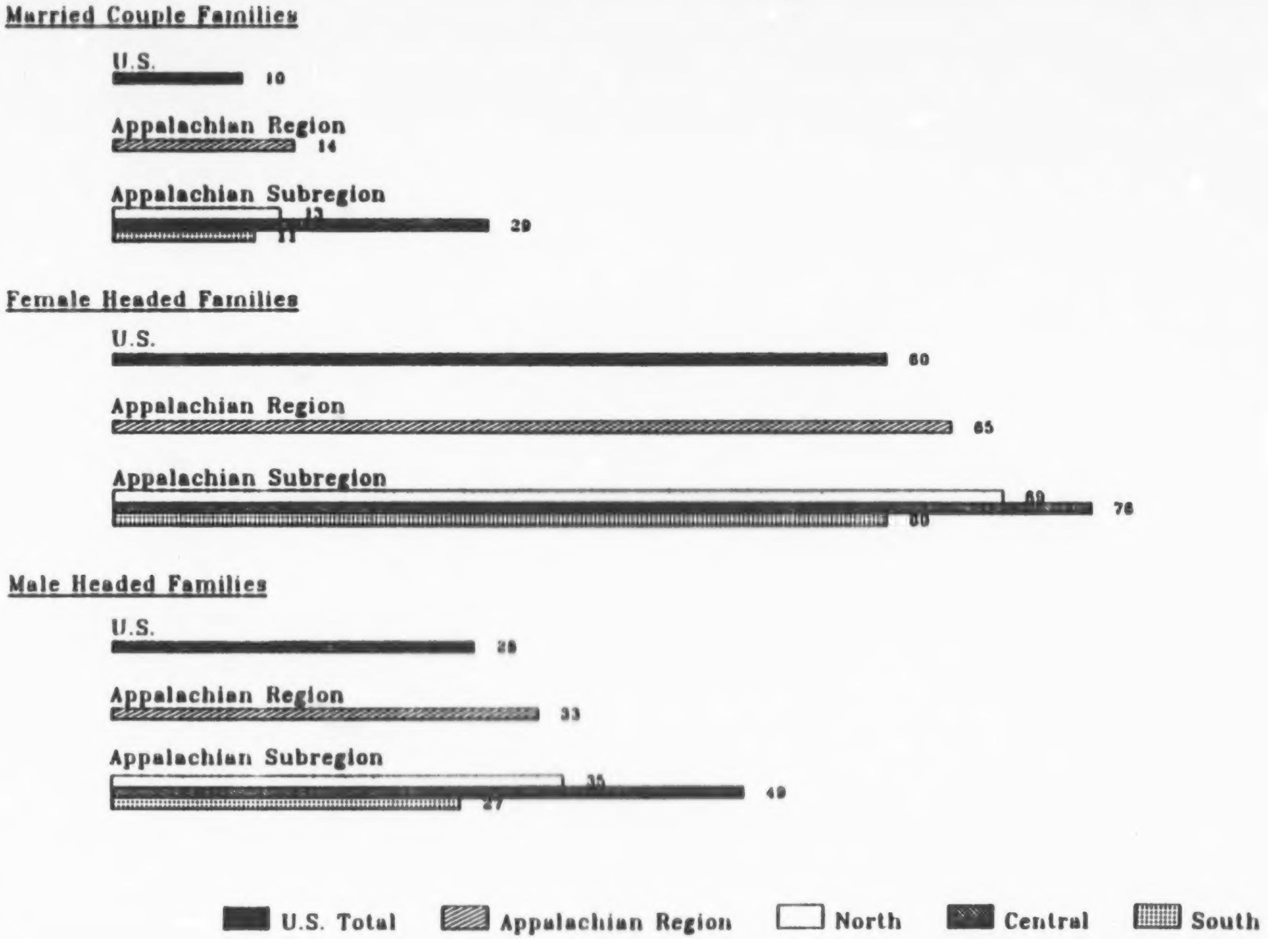
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P128

Figure 18. Percent of Children under 18 in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



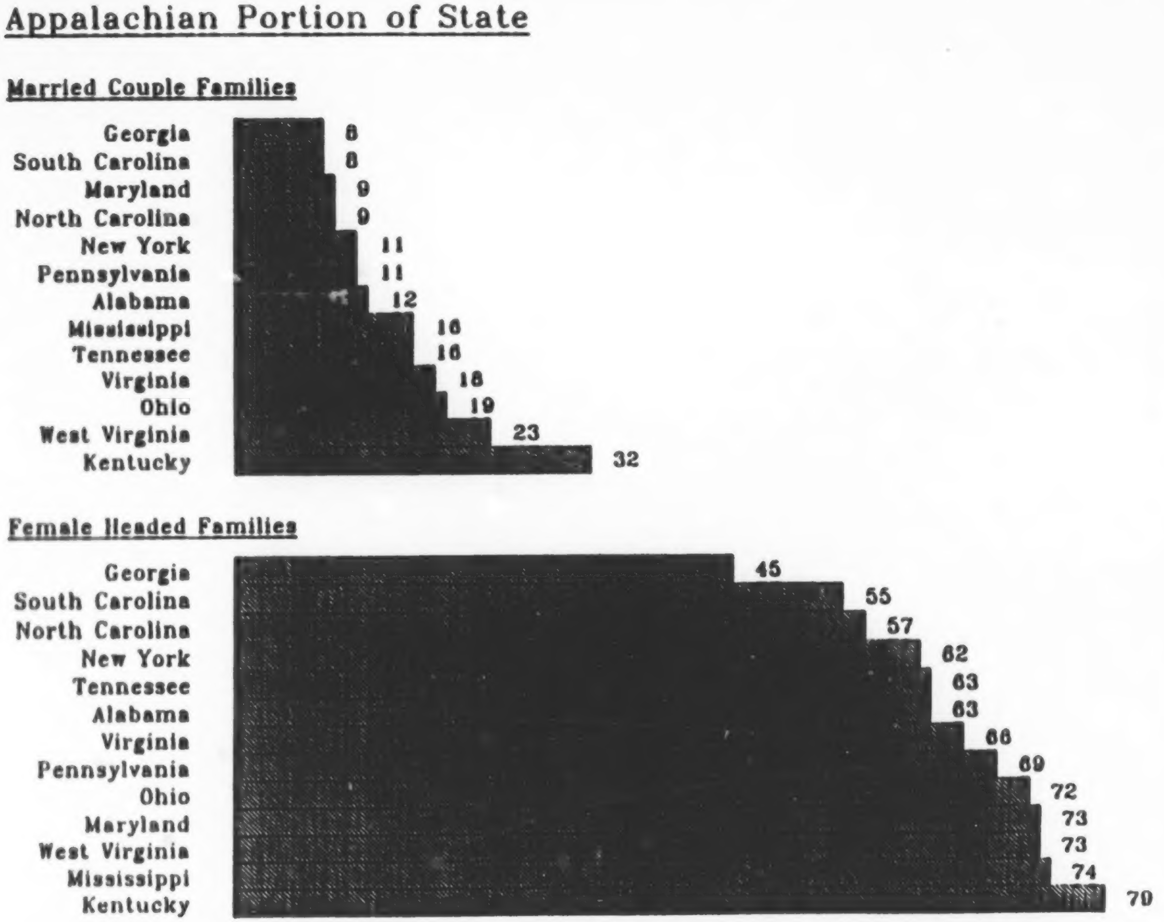
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A). Table P126.

Figure 19. Percent of Children under 6 in Poverty, by Family Type, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P126.

Figure 20. Percent of Children under 6 in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), P126.

Table 29. Percent of Children Below Poverty Level, Under 18, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Children Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple Family	Female-headed Family	Male-headed Family
Total US		9	50	24
Appalachian Region		12	54	28
Appalachian Subregion	North	11	56	28
	Central	26	66	45
	South	10	50	24
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	11	55	24
	Georgia	7	36	16
	Kentucky	29	70	49
	Maryland	9	56	20
	Mississippi	15	67	38
	New York	9	48	26
	North Carolina	8	43	25
	Ohio	16	60	33
	Pennsylvania	9	55	25
	South Carolina	6	45	20
	Tennessee	14	52	28
	Virginia	16	55	32
	West Virginia	19	60	36

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P126.

Table 30. Percent of Children Below Poverty Level, Under Age 6, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Children Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple Family	Female-headed Family	Male-headed Family
Total US		10	60	28
Appalachian Region		14	65	33
Appalachian Subregion	North	13	69	35
	Central	29	76	49
	South	11	60	27
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	12	63	30
	Georgia	8	45	15
	Kentucky	32	79	53
	Maryland	9	73	34
	Mississippi	16	74	41
	New York	11	62	32
	North Carolina	9	57	26
	Ohio	19	72	46
	Pennsylvania	11	69	31
	South Carolina	8	55	23
	Tennessee	16	63	32
	Virginia	18	66	35
	West Virginia	23	73	43

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P126.

Table 31. Percent of Children Below Poverty Level, Ages 6 to 17, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Children Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple Family	Female-headed Family	Male-headed Family
Total US		9	45	21
Appalachian Region		11	49	25
Appalachian Subregion	North	10	50	24
	Central	24	62	44
	South	9	46	22
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	10	51	22
	Georgia	7	33	16
	Kentucky	28	66	47
	Maryland	9	47	11
	Mississippi	14	64	37
	New York	8	42	23
	North Carolina	8	37	24
	Ohio	15	54	27
	Pennsylvania	9	49	21
	South Carolina	5	41	19
	Tennessee	13	47	27
	Virginia	15	51	31
	West Virginia	17	55	33

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P126.

▸ How do child poverty rates in Appalachia compare to those of the older population there?

(*see Table 32; Figures 21-23*)

Turning to the other end of the age spectrum, adults aged 65 or older are about as likely as children to be classified as poor. Less than 20 percent of adults aged 65 or older in Appalachia fell below the poverty level in 1990; however, the incidence among blacks (35 percent) is more than double that of whites (16 percent).

Patterns by Subregion

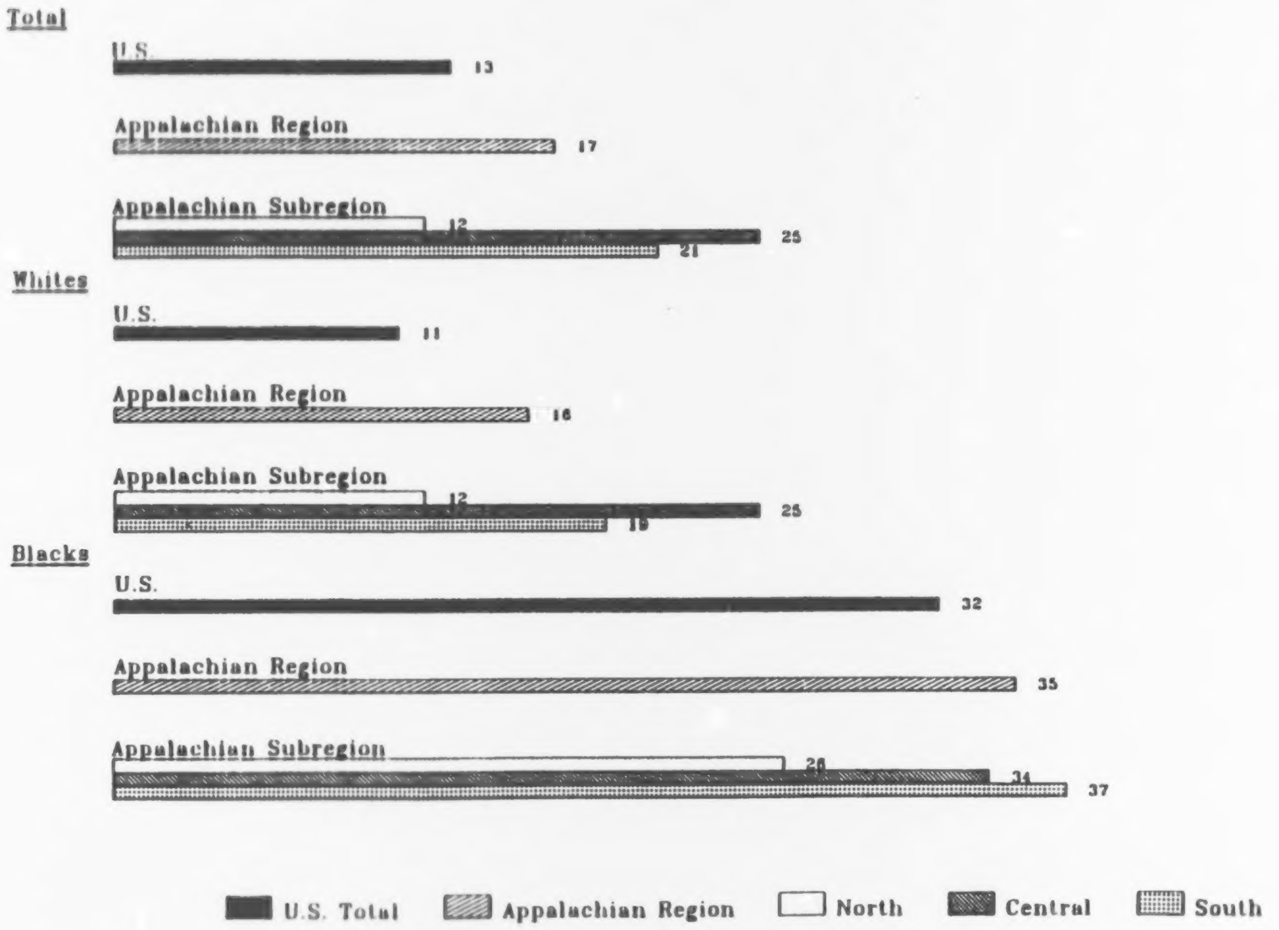
- Older adults in Northern Appalachia (12 percent) are about half as likely to be classified as poor as those 65 or older living in the Central (25 percent) and Southern (21 percent) subregions.

- Among blacks, the greatest percentage of those in poverty is found in the Southern subregion, while Central Appalachia closely follows. As with whites, poverty is lower in the Northern subregion.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

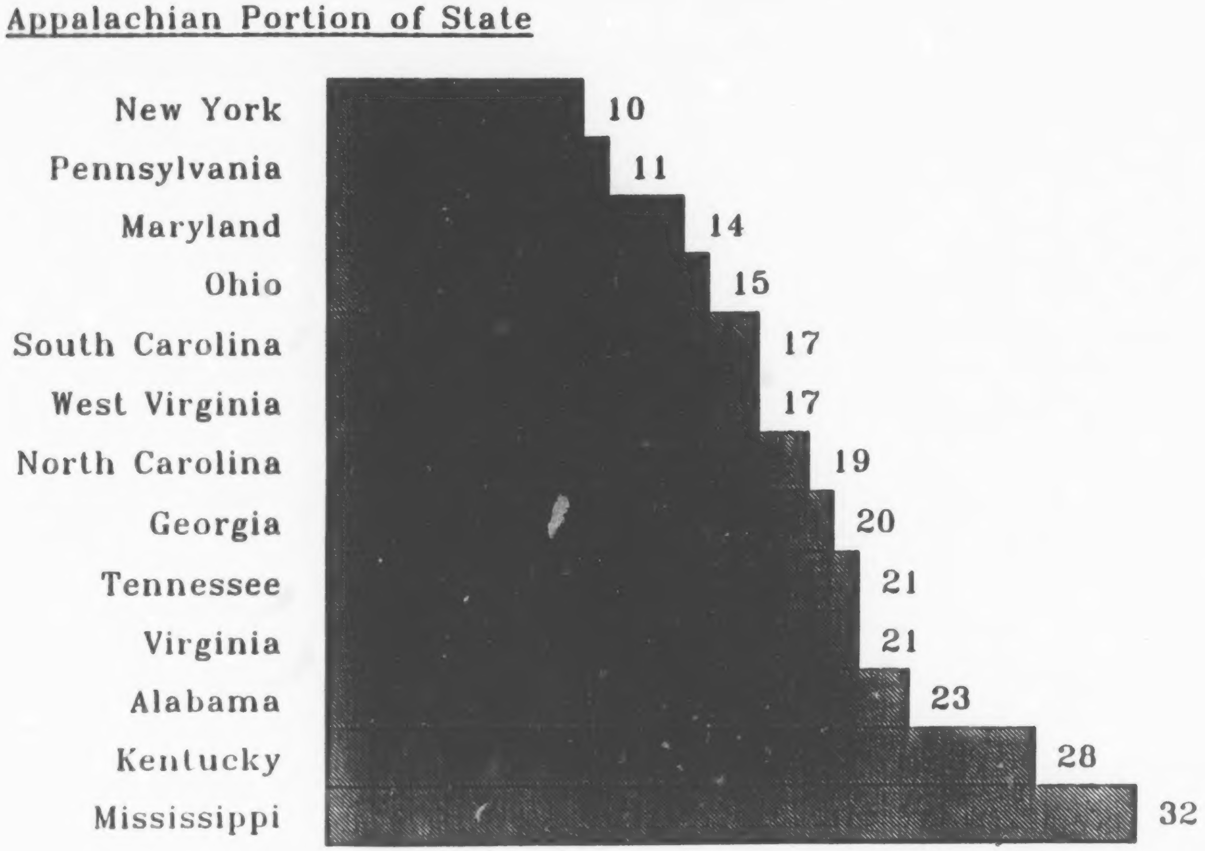
- The proportion of adults ages 65 or older below the poverty threshold ranges from 10 to 32 percent across the 13 Appalachian States. The share of older black adults who are poor is markedly greater than the same proportion for whites in all of the Appalachian State portions.

Figure 21. Percent of Adults Ages 65 and Older in Poverty, by Race, 1990 Census.



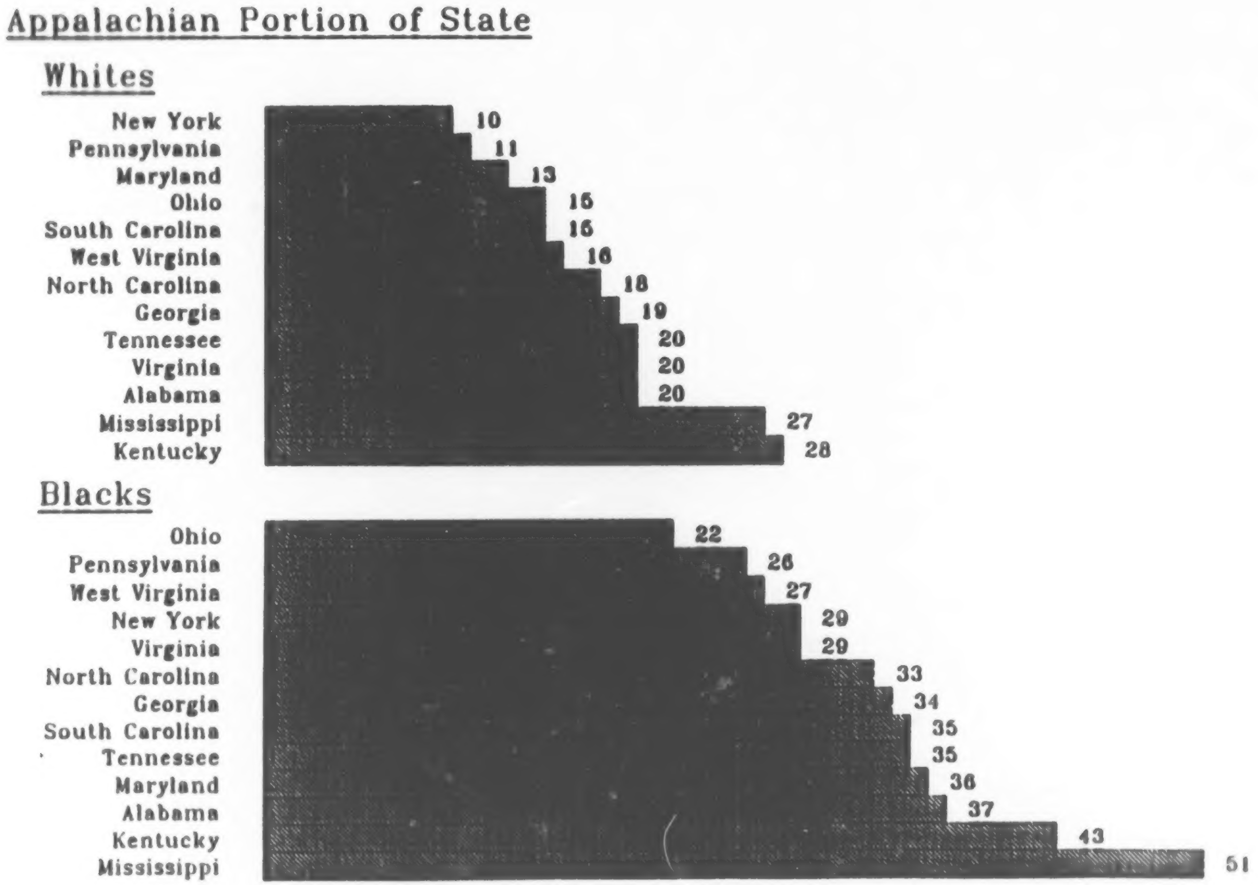
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P118, P119.

Figure 22. Percent of Adults Ages 65 and Older in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Tables P118.

Figure 23. Percent of Adults Ages 65 and Older in Poverty, by Race, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A). Tables P119.

Table 32. Percent of Adults Ages 65 and Older, Below Poverty Level, by Race, 1990 Census

		Percent of Adults Ages 65+ Below Poverty Level		
		Total	White	Black
Total US		13	11	32
Appalachian Region		17	16	35
Appalachian Subregion	North	12	12	26
	Central	25	25	34
	South	21	19	37
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	23	20	37
	Georgia	20	19	34
	Kentucky	28	28	43
	Maryland	14	13	36
	Mississippi	32	27	51
	New York	10	10	29
	North Carolina	19	18	33
	Ohio	15	15	22
	Pennsylvania	11	11	26
	South Carolina	17	15	35
	Tennessee	21	20	35
	Virginia	21	20	29
	West Virginia	17	16	27

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Tables P118, P119.

▸ What is the mean income for families in Appalachia?

(see Tables 33; Figures 24, 25)

Family incomes in Appalachia average considerably below those of families in the U.S. as a whole. While the average American married-couple family with children has an income of $46,878, the comparable figure for such families in Appalachia is only $37,827. Disparities in family income among female-headed families with children in Appalachia versus the U.S. are not as great in dollar terms -- $11,516 versus $14,326, respectively, but are similar in terms of proportion of income.

Within Appalachia, comparable to the total U.S., the average incomes of married-couple families with children is about three times the size of that for female-headed families ($11,516). The incomes of male-headed families with children rank in the middle with a mean of $19,551.

Patterns by Subregion

o Average family incomes are considerably lower, regardless of family type, in Central Appalachia. Married-couple families with children in the Northern and Southern subregions of Appalachia have about a ten thousand dollar advantage over such families in the Central part of the region. Female-headed families with children in Central Appalachia average incomes of less than $10,000 ($8,383).

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

o Average family incomes are highest for married-couple families in Appalachian Georgia and South Carolina, where mean incomes fall above $40,000, and lowest in the Appalachian portions of Kentucky ($27,584) and Virginia ($32,291) for this family type.

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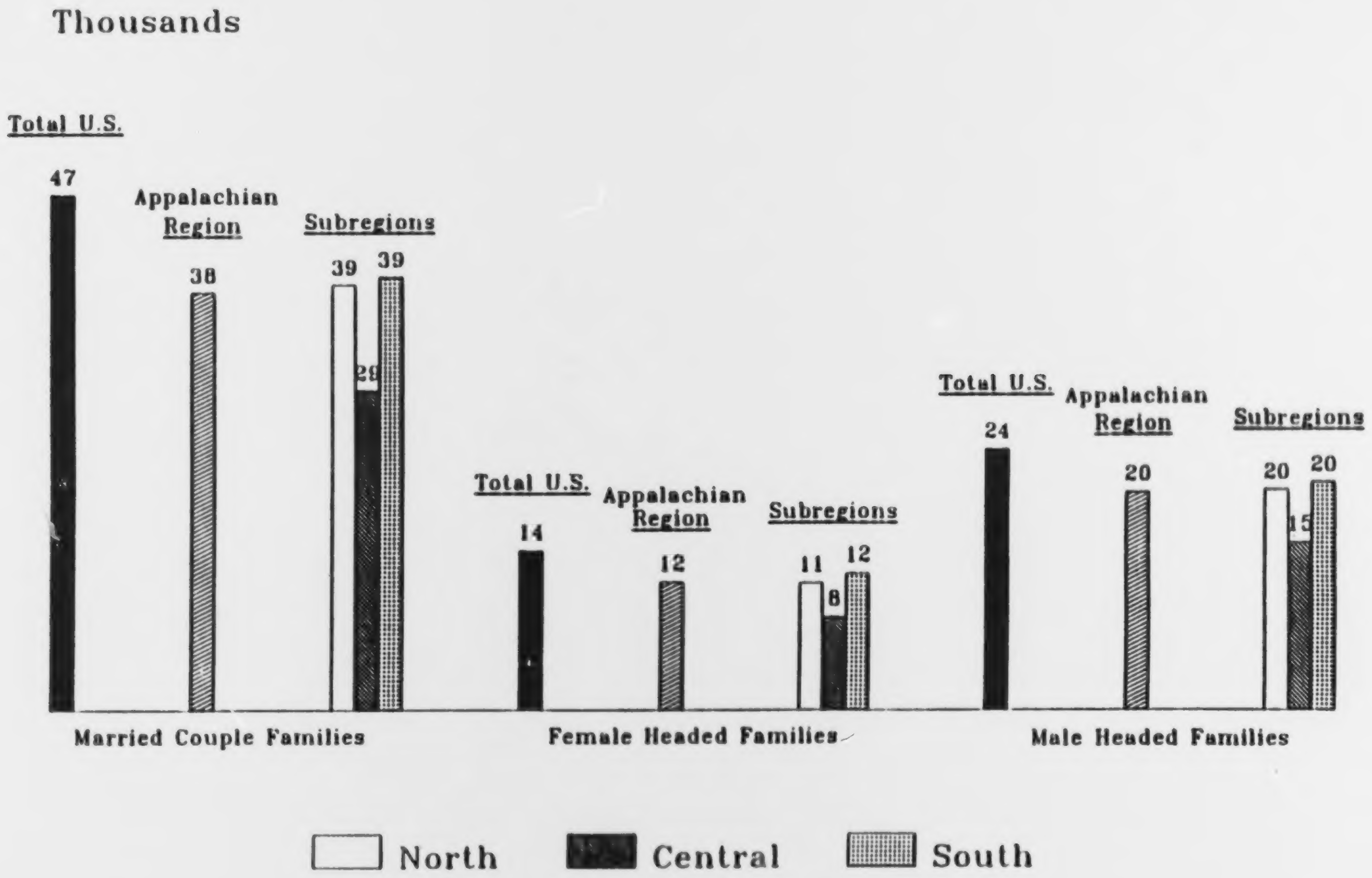
Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States (continued)

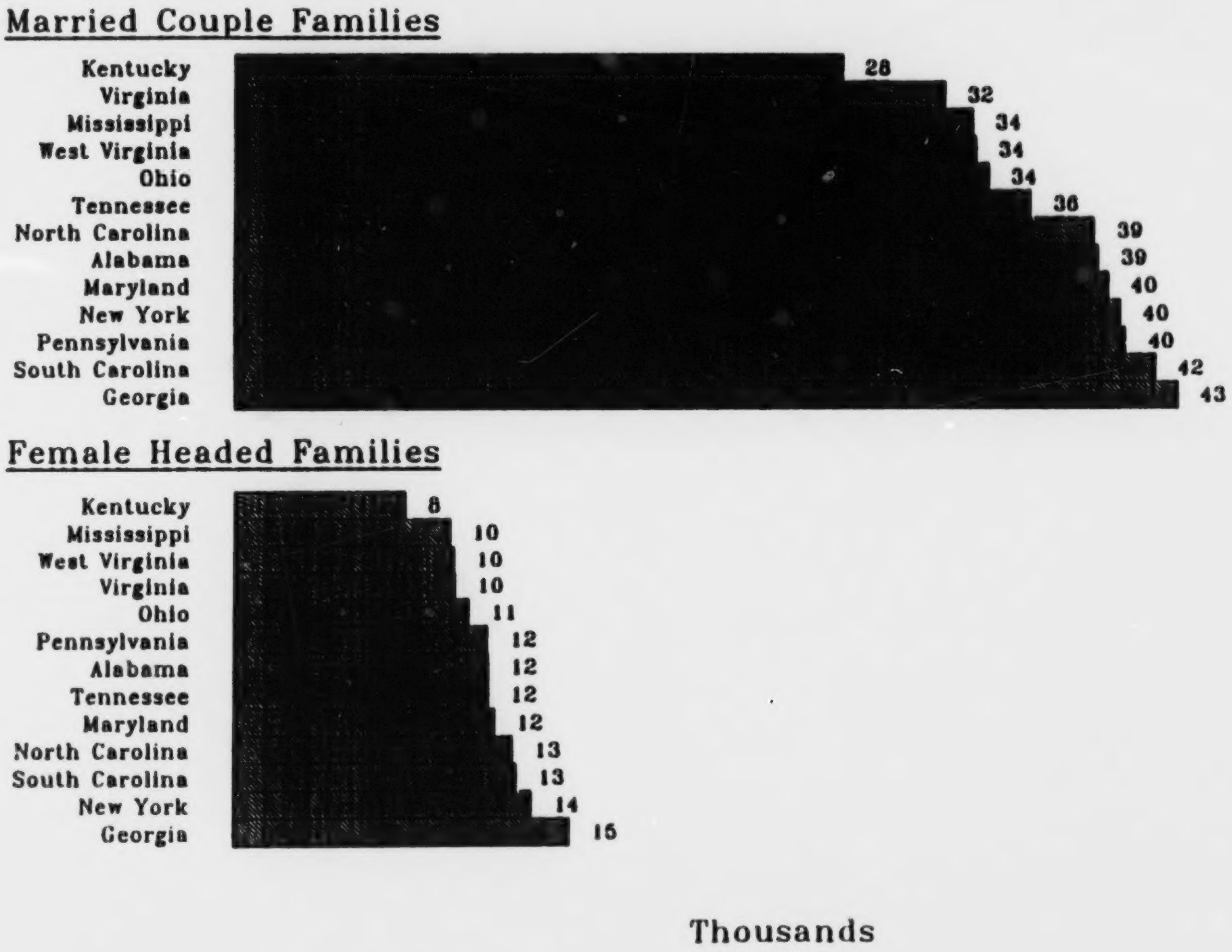
- **While the average income for female-headed families with children in Appalachian portions of States is about $10,000, the mean income for these families in the Appalachian portion of Georgia is considerably higher ($15,223), and in Appalachian Kentucky it is considerably lower ($7,763).**

Figure 24. Mean Income for Families, by Family Type, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), P109, P19, P107A.

Figure 25. Mean Income for Families, by Family Type, Appalachian Portions of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Tables P109, P19, P107A.

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Table 33. Mean Income for Families, Total, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Mean Income for Families with Children		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		46,878	14,326	23,540
Appalachian Region		37,827	11,516	19,551
Appalachian Subregion	North	38,571	11,422	19,723
	Central	28,897	8,383	14,992
	South	39,289	12,273	20,417
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	39,210	11,535	20,318
	Georgia	42,813	15,223	23,480
	Kentucky	27,584	7,763	14,715
	Maryland	39,664	11,833	20,838
	Mississippi	33,556	9,777	16,387
	New York	40,195	13,513	20,027
	North Carolina	39,024	12,631	19,628
	Ohio	34,244	10,643	18,322
	Pennsylvania	40,439	11,500	20,209
	South Carolina	41,783	12,815	19,528
	Tennessee	36,145	11,544	19,930
	Virginia	32,291	10,014	15,928
	West Virginia	33,701	9,972	18,262

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P109, P19, P107A.

▸ How does the risk of poverty vary by the age of the householder?
(*see Table 34*)

Younger families are typically more vulnerable to poverty because of the relatively lower job tenure of their household heads, and thus lower earnings. Households headed by older persons, because they often rely on fixed retirement incomes, are also often at risk of being poor. When the percent of households with incomes below $10,000 are compared across different categories of age of householder, this differential risk of poverty is evident in both the U.S. and in the Appalachian region. While more than a third of households headed by someone 25 years old or younger in Appalachia have incomes falling below $10,000, this is true of only 14 percent of those 25 to 34 years old, and 11 percent of the householders who are between 35 and 54 years of age. Among householders who were at least 55 or older, the percent with incomes below $10,000 rises again to 30 percent.

Patterns by Subregion

o Regardless of age of householder, a greater share of households in Central Appalachia have incomes below $10,000 than in other parts of the region. Forty-four percent of the youngest householders fall into this low income grouping in the Central subregion compared to 38 percent in the North, and 29 percent in the South of Appalachia.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

o Young families are particularly likely to have income falling below $10,000 in the Appalachian portions of Kentucky (47 percent) and West Virginia (48 percent). Moreover, relatively high percentages of householders of all ages rank in this low income category in these Appalachian States.

- **The lowest percentages of household incomes of $10,000 or less are seen in Appalachian Georgia. Only 15 percent of householders ages 25 or less, and less than 10 percent of those ranging in age from 25 to 54 years fit into this low income category.**

Table 34. Percent of Households with Household Incomes Below $10,000, Total, by Age of Householder, 1990 Census

		Percent with Household Incomes < $10,000			
		Householder <25 Yrs.	Householder 25-34 Yrs.	Householder 35-54 Yrs.	Householder 55+ Yrs.
Total US		29	11	8	24
Appalachian Region		34	14	11	30
Appalachian Subregion	North	38	15	10	27
	Central	44	25	20	40
	South	29	12	9	32
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	34	13	10	33
	Georgia	15	7	6	29
	Kentucky	47	28	23	44
	Maryland	27	13	8	28
	Mississippi	35	19	14	42
	New York	35	12	8	24
	North Carolina	28	11	8	30
	Ohio	39	19	12	30
	Pennsylvania	36	13	9	26
	South Carolina	26	10	8	30
	Tennessee	34	15	11	33
	Virginia	31	17	14	35
	West Virginia	48	21	15	32

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P86.

▸ How does the risk of family poverty in Appalachia differ by race?

(*see Tables 36, 37; Figures 28-31*)

White and black families show the same patterns of poverty risk across family types; however, the level of poverty among black families with children in Appalachia is consistently higher than that of white families for all family types.

Patterns by Subregion

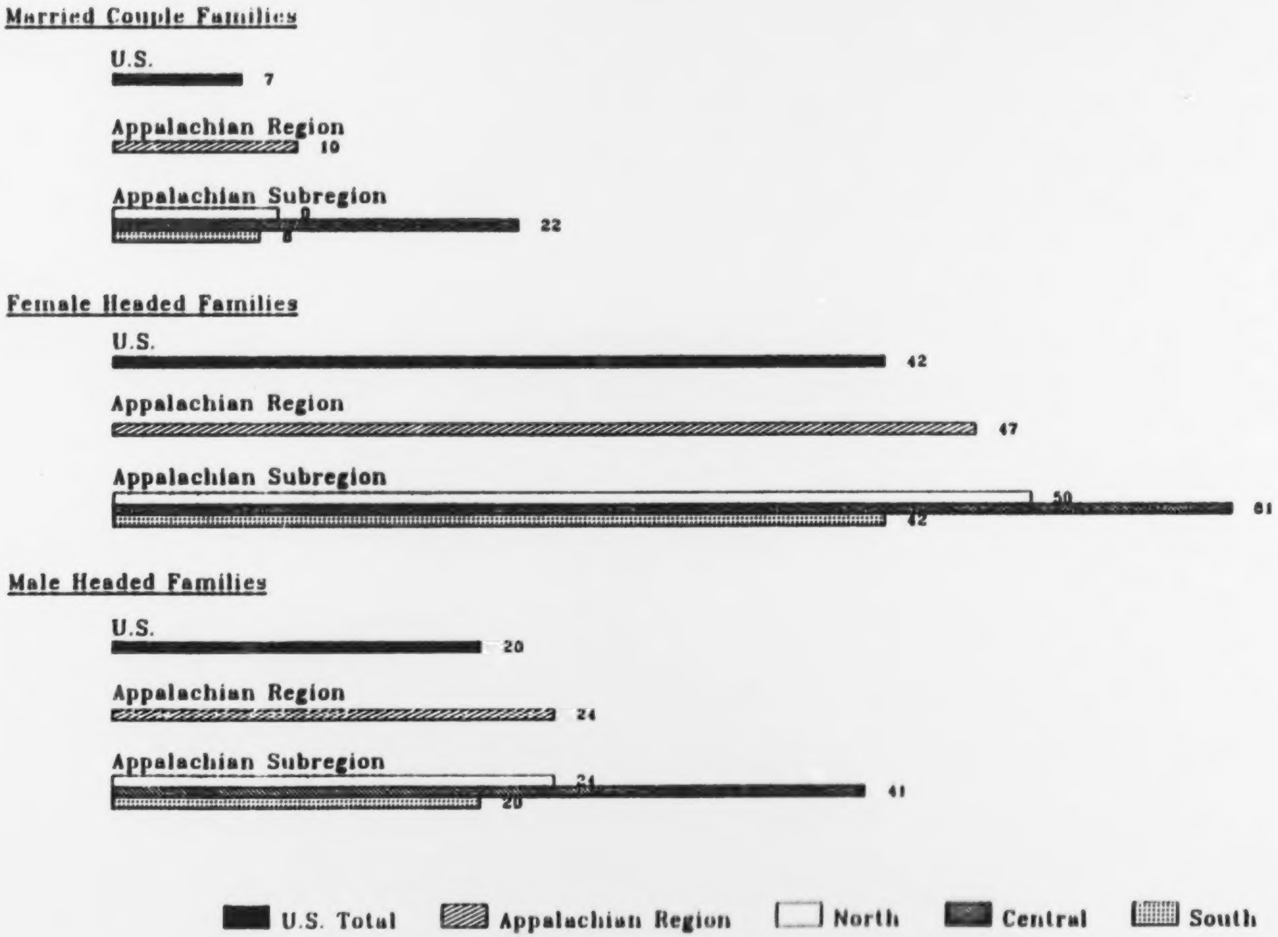
- Black married-couple families with children in Southern Appalachia (13 percent) are almost twice as likely to be poor as their white counterparts (7 percent). There is a smaller, but notable disparity in poverty levels across the two race groups among married-couple families in the North (15 versus 9 percent), but virtually no difference between the two in the Central part of the region (23 versus 22 percent).

- Among female-headed families with children, racial disparities in poverty levels are also most prominent in the South -- 56 percent of black mother-only families with children are poor compared to 34 percent of similar white families. However, a greater share of black than white female-headed families with children are also poor in the Northern and Central subregions.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

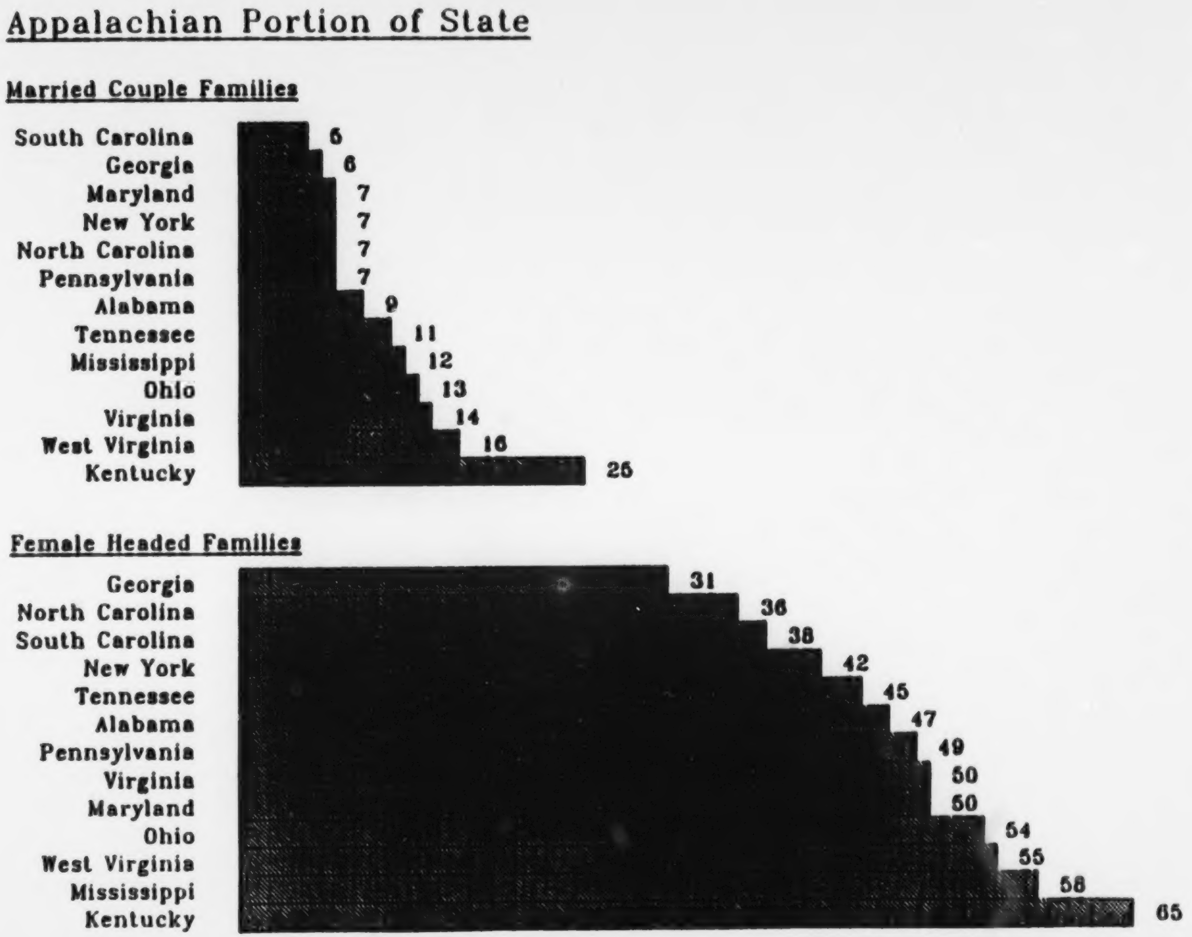
- Among black families with children, the percentages classified as poor range from 8 to 27 percent for married-couple families, and 48 to 67 percent among female-headed families.

Figure 26. Percent of Families with Children under 18, in Poverty, by Family Type, 1990 Census.



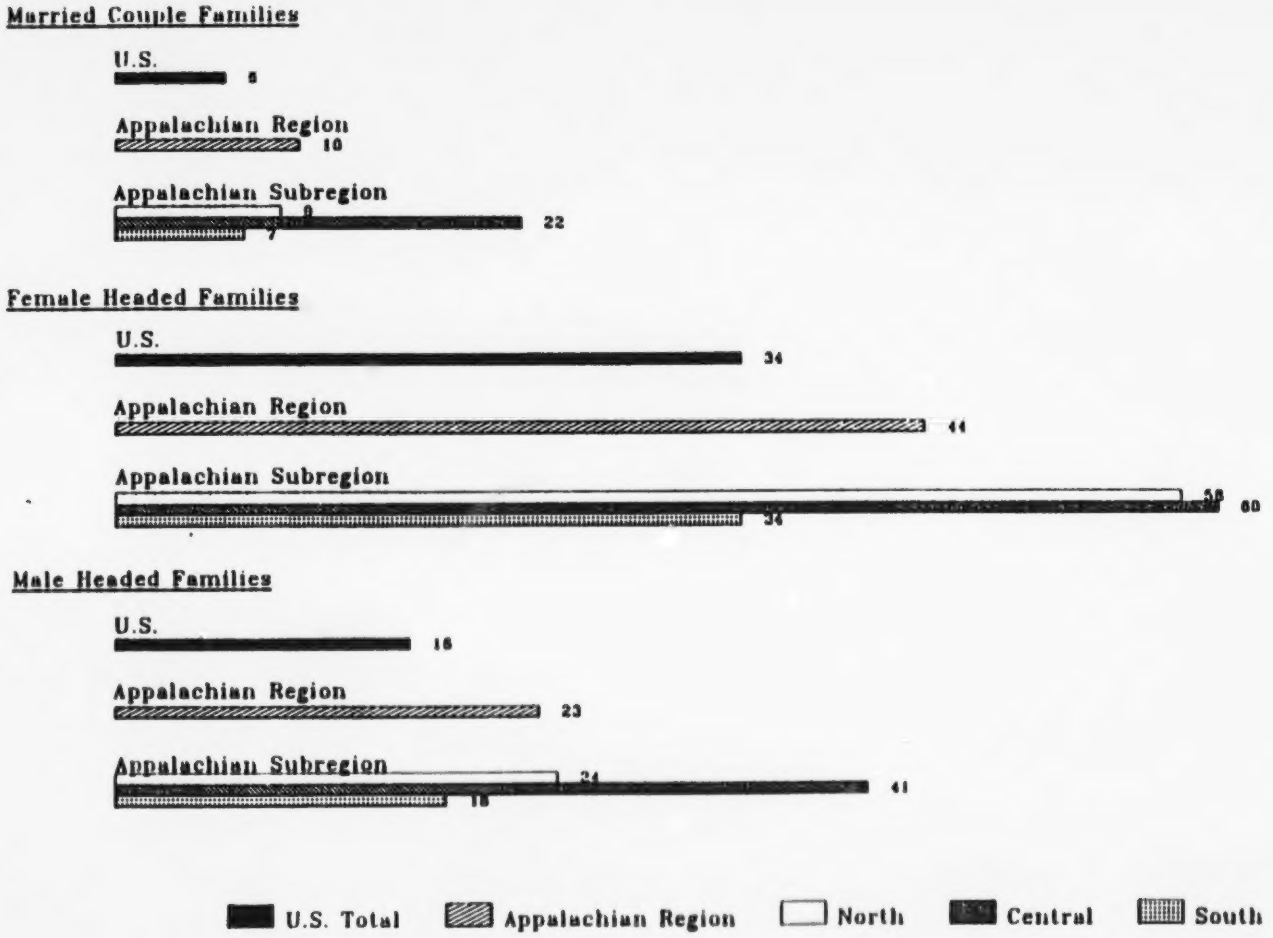
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P123.

Figure 27. Percent of Families with Children under 18, in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P123

Figure 28. Percent of White Families with Children under 18, in Poverty, by Family Type, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P124.

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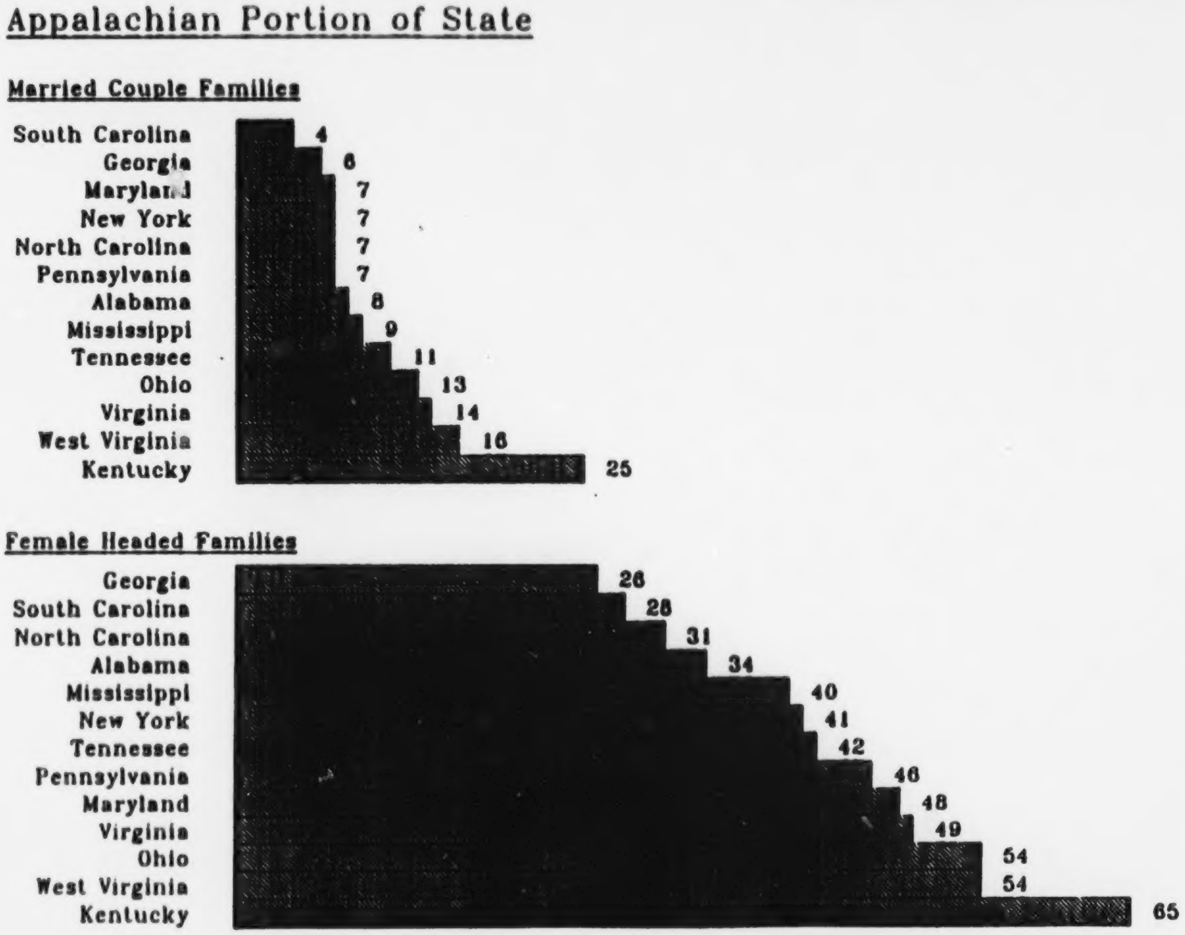
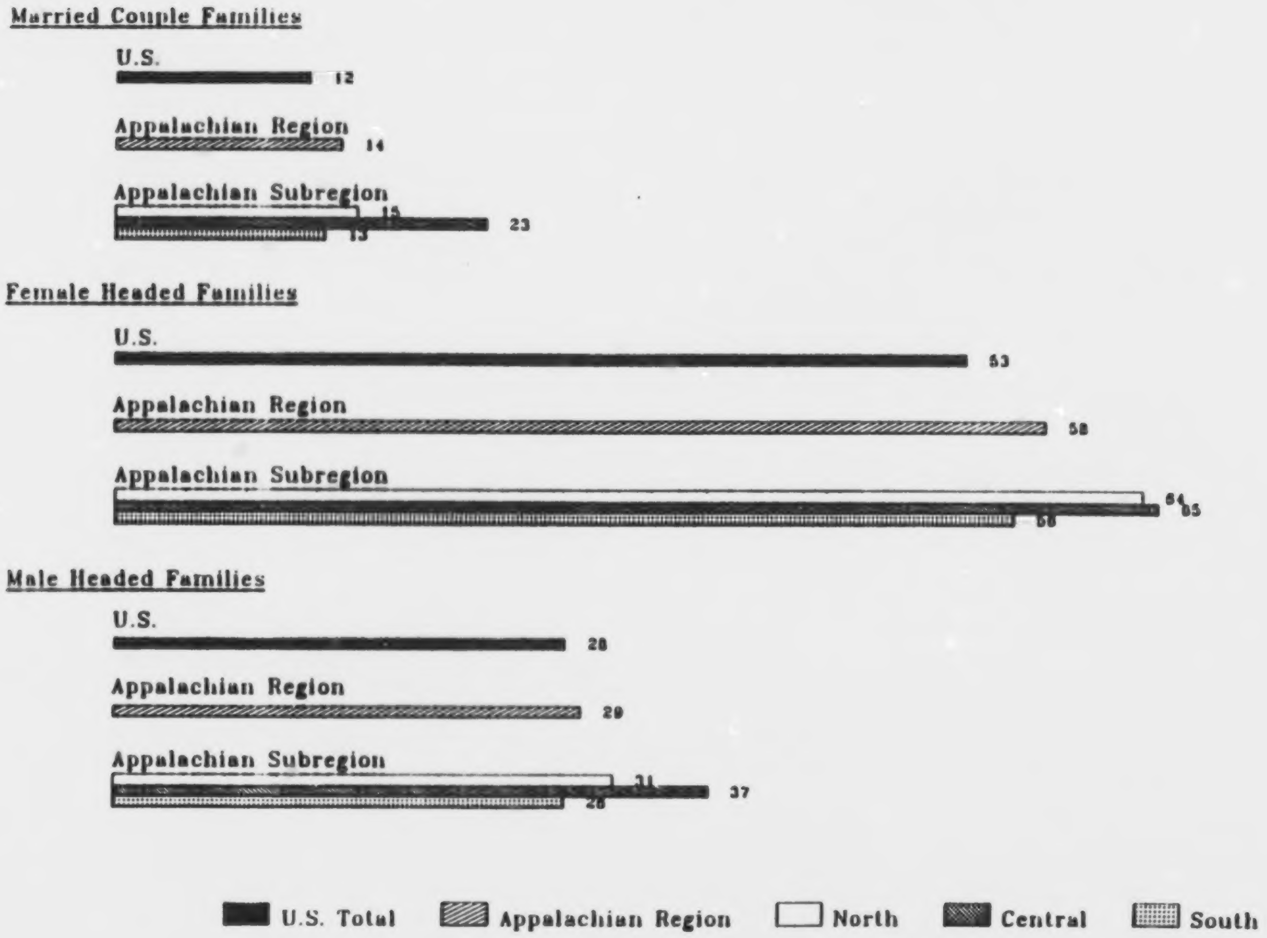
Figure 29. Percent of White Families with Children under 18 in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



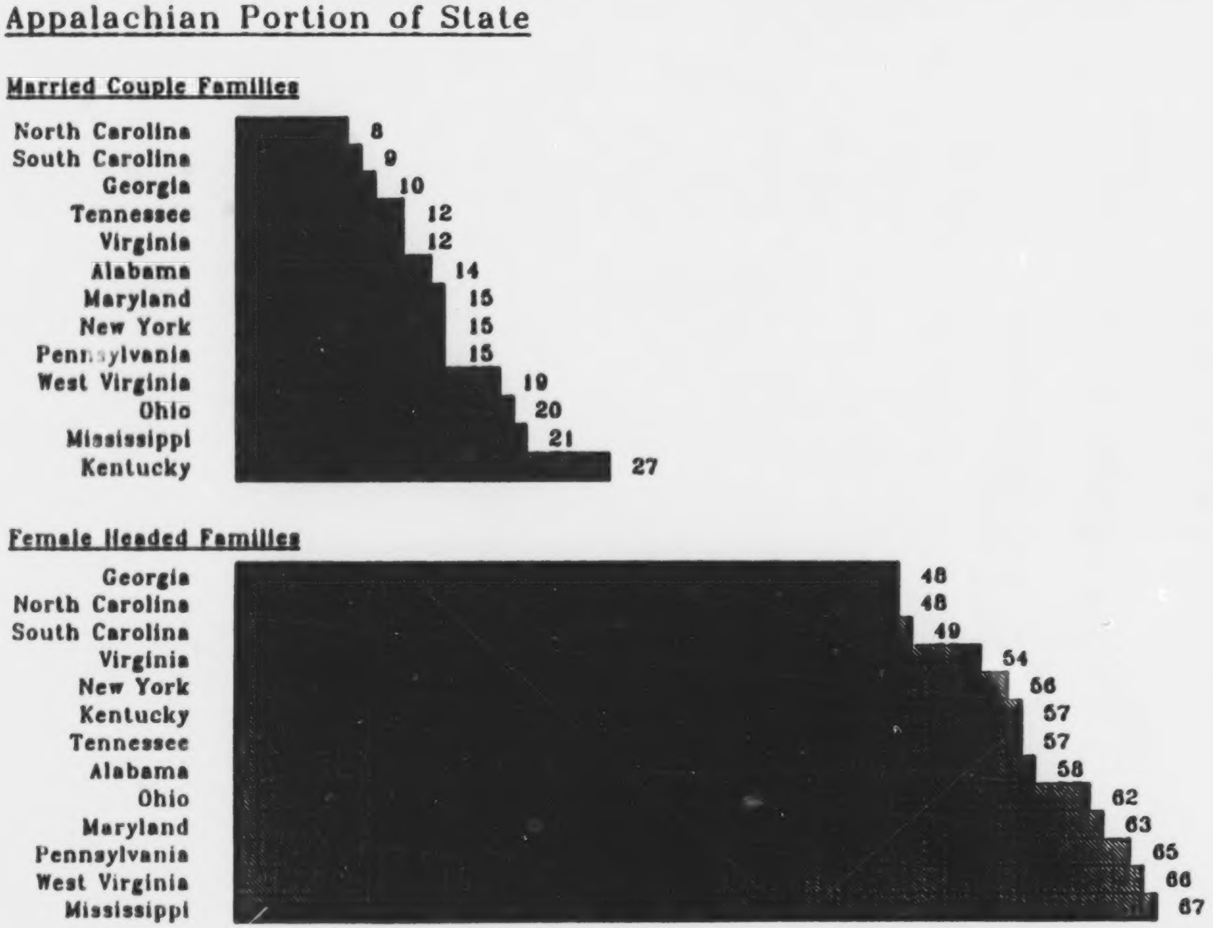
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P124.

Figure 30. Percent of Black Families with Children under 18 in Poverty, by Family Type, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Table P124.

Figure 31. Percent of Black Families with Children under 18 in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P124

Table 35. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Total, With Children Under 18, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		7	42	20
Appalachian Region		10	47	24
Appalachian Subregion	North	9	50	24
	Central	22	61	41
	South	8	42	20
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	9	47	20
	Georgia	6	31	13
	Kentucky	25	65	44
	Maryland	7	50	18
	Mississippi	12	58	33
	New York	7	42	24
	North Carolina	7	36	21
	Ohio	13	54	30
	Pennsylvania	7	49	21
	South Carolina	5	38	16
	Tennessee	11	45	24
	Virginia	14	50	28
	West Virginia	16	55	31

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P123.

Table 36. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Whites, With Children Under 18, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		6	34	16
Appalachian Region		10	44	23
Appalachian Subregion	North	9	48	24
	Central	22	60	41
	South	7	34	18
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	8	34	16
	Georgia	6	26	12
	Kentucky	25	65	45
	Maryland	7	48	18
	Mississippi	9	40	24
	New York	7	41	23
	North Carolina	7	31	20
	Ohio	13	54	30
	Pennsylvania	7	46	20
	South Carolina	4	28	14
	Tennessee	11	42	24
	Virginia	14	49	28
	West Virginia	16	54	31

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

Table 37. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Blacks, With Children Under 18, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		12	53	28
Appalachian Region		14	58	29
Appalachian Subregion	North	15	64	31
	Central	23	65	37
	South	13	56	28
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	14	58	28
	Georgia	10	48	22
	Kentucky	27	57	33
	Maryland	15	63	0
	Mississippi	21	67	45
	New York	15	56	30
	North Carolina	8	48	24
	Ohio	20	62	16
	Pennsylvania	15	65	33
	South Carolina	9	49	22
	Tennessee	12	57	28
	Virginia	12	54	32
	West Virginia	19	66	36

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

▸ How does family poverty vary by ages of children?

(see Tables 38-44; Figures 32-37)

A family's risk of being poor relates in part to the ages of the children, with younger children being the most vulnerable to poverty. Eleven percent of families with children under age 5 fall below the poverty threshold in Appalachia, compared to 9 percent of those with children ages 5 to 17. A wider divergence in poverty levels across children's ages exists for female-headed families. Fifty-eight percent of mother-only families with young children are poor compared to 39 percent among those with children ages 5 to 17.

The patterns for whites echo those of families in the Appalachian region as a whole, however, age disparities are not as evident across family poverty levels among blacks. For example, in contrast to the 20 percent difference in poverty levels for white female-headed families with younger versus older children, comparable rates for black families are 62 percent versus 50 percent, respectively. In addition, the poverty levels of black families are consistently higher than those of whites regardless of age of children.

Patterns by Subregion

o The biggest difference in poverty levels for married-couple families with younger versus older children is found in the Central subregion -- 25 versus 19 percent, respectively. However, Northern Appalachia shows the biggest age differential in family poverty among female-headed families. Sixty-four percent of mother-only families with children under 5 in the Northern region are classified as poor, while this is true of 41 percent of those with children ages 5 to 17.

o Given that white families are the majority, it is not surprising that their patterns mirror those of the region as a whole.

Patterns by Subregion (continued)

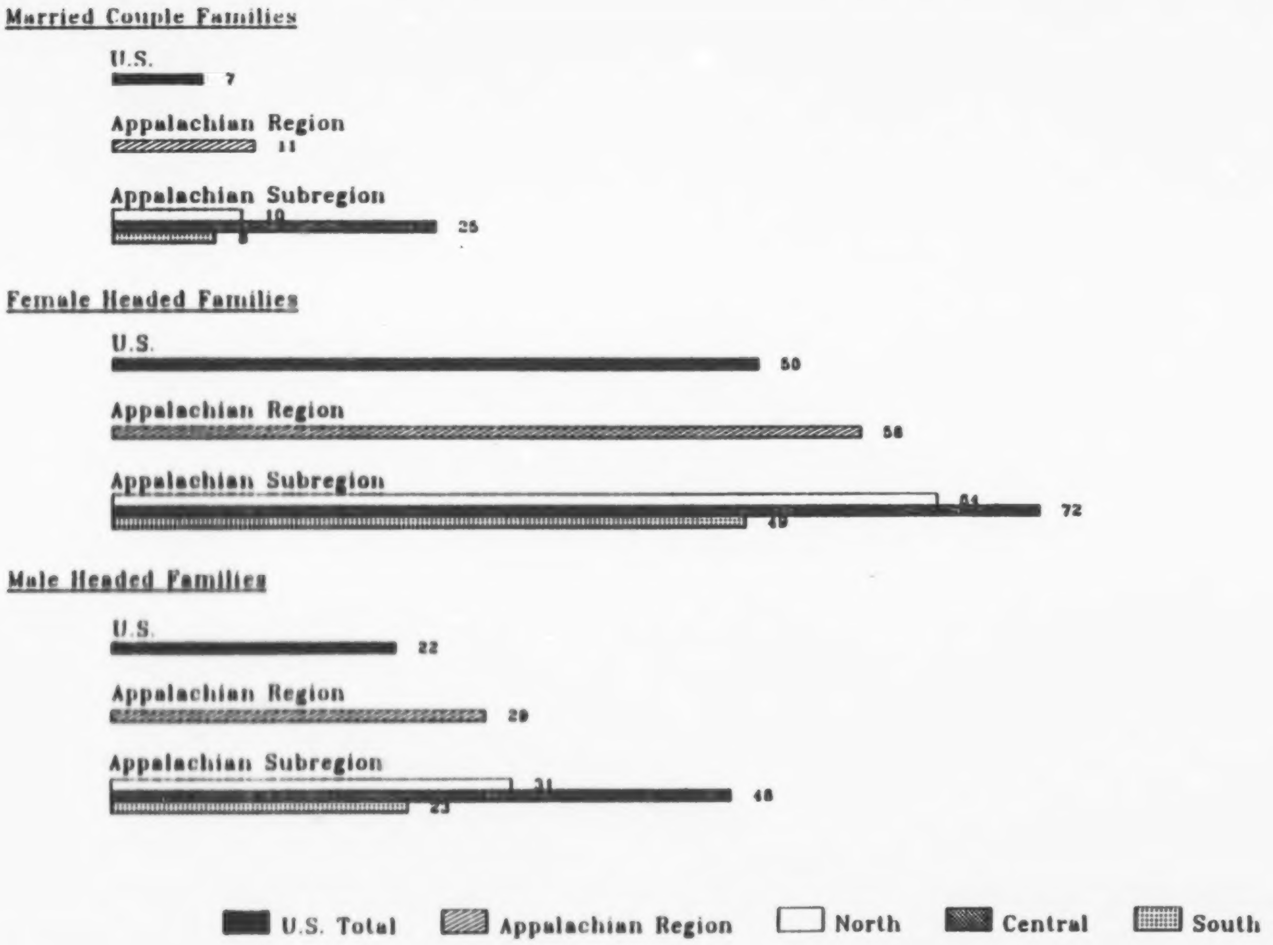
- The gap between the share of poor black married-couple families with children under 5 versus those with children between 5 to 17 is greater in both Northern (7 percentage points) and Central Appalachia (14 percentage points) than the comparable figures for white married-couple families with children (2 and 6 percentage points, respectively).

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

- The percentage of poor married-couple families with young children ranges from 5 percent in Appalachian Maryland and South Carolina to 28 percent in the Appalachian portion of Kentucky. Comparable figures for those with children ages 5 to 17 range from 4 percent to 22 percent across the Appalachian States.

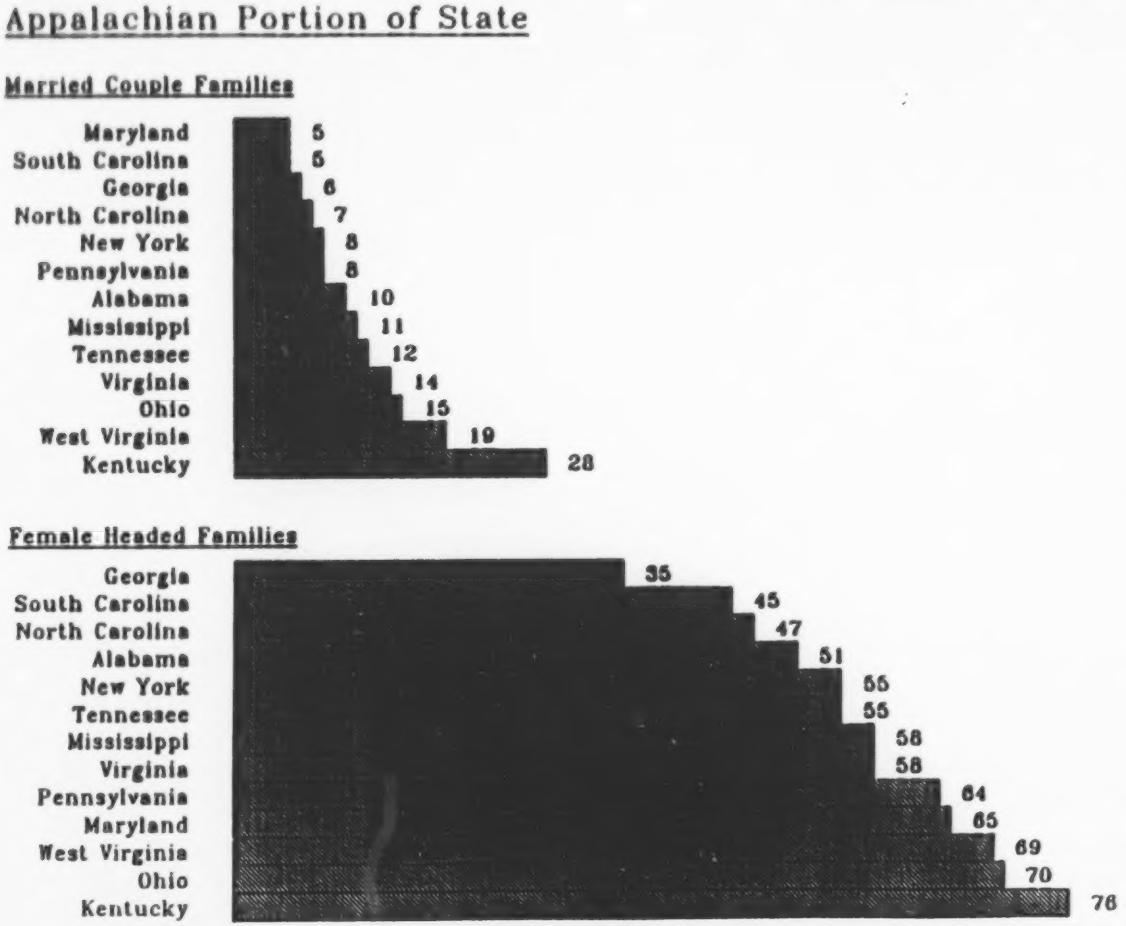
- Among female-headed families with children under age 5, the percentage classified as poor ranges from 35 percent in Appalachian Georgia to 76 percent in the Appalachian portion of Kentucky. Among those with older children, comparable figures range from 25 to 59 percent.

Figure 32. Percent of Families with Children under 5, in Poverty, by Family Type, 1990 Census.



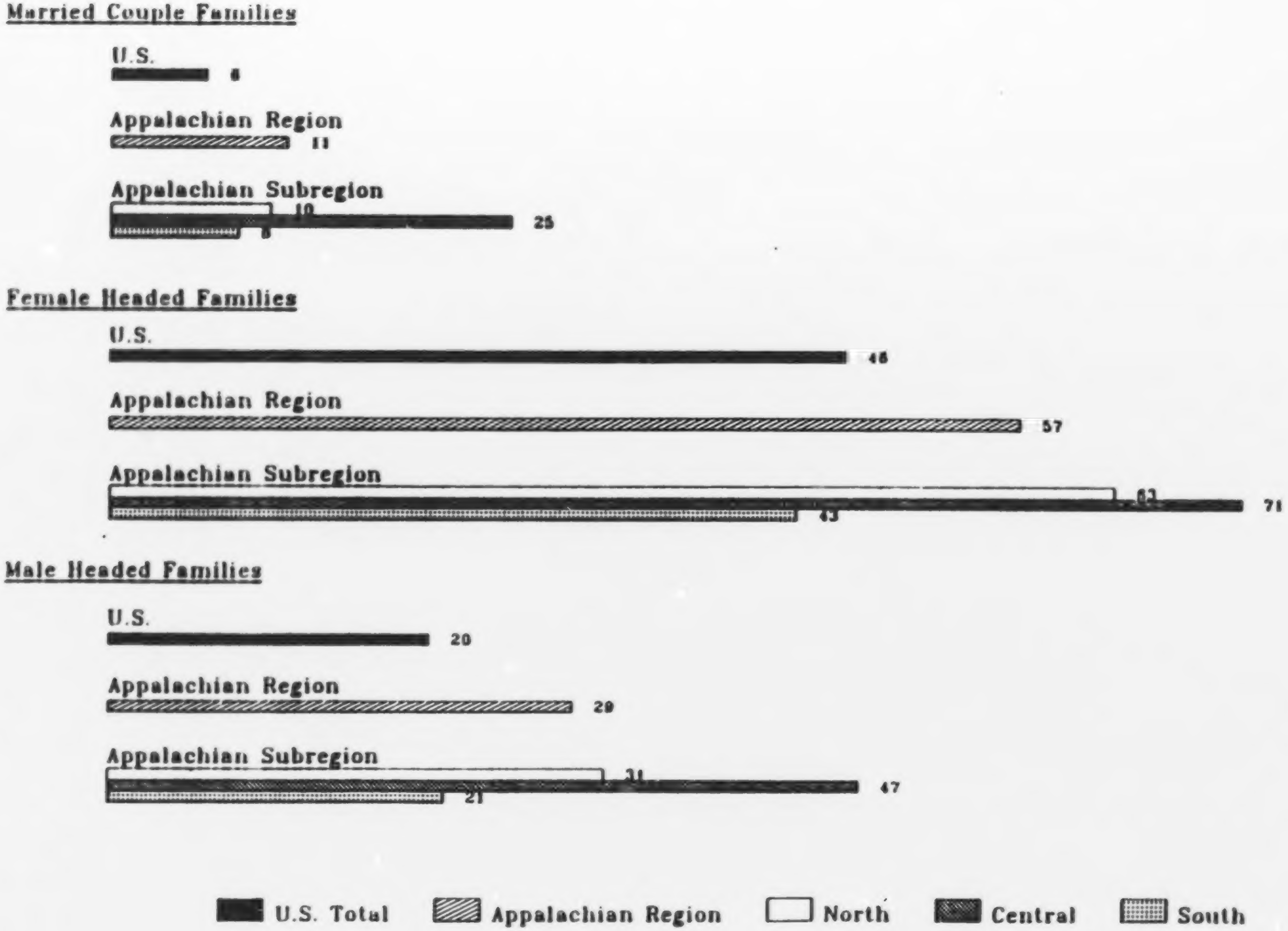
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P123

Figure 33. Percent of Families with Children under 5, in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



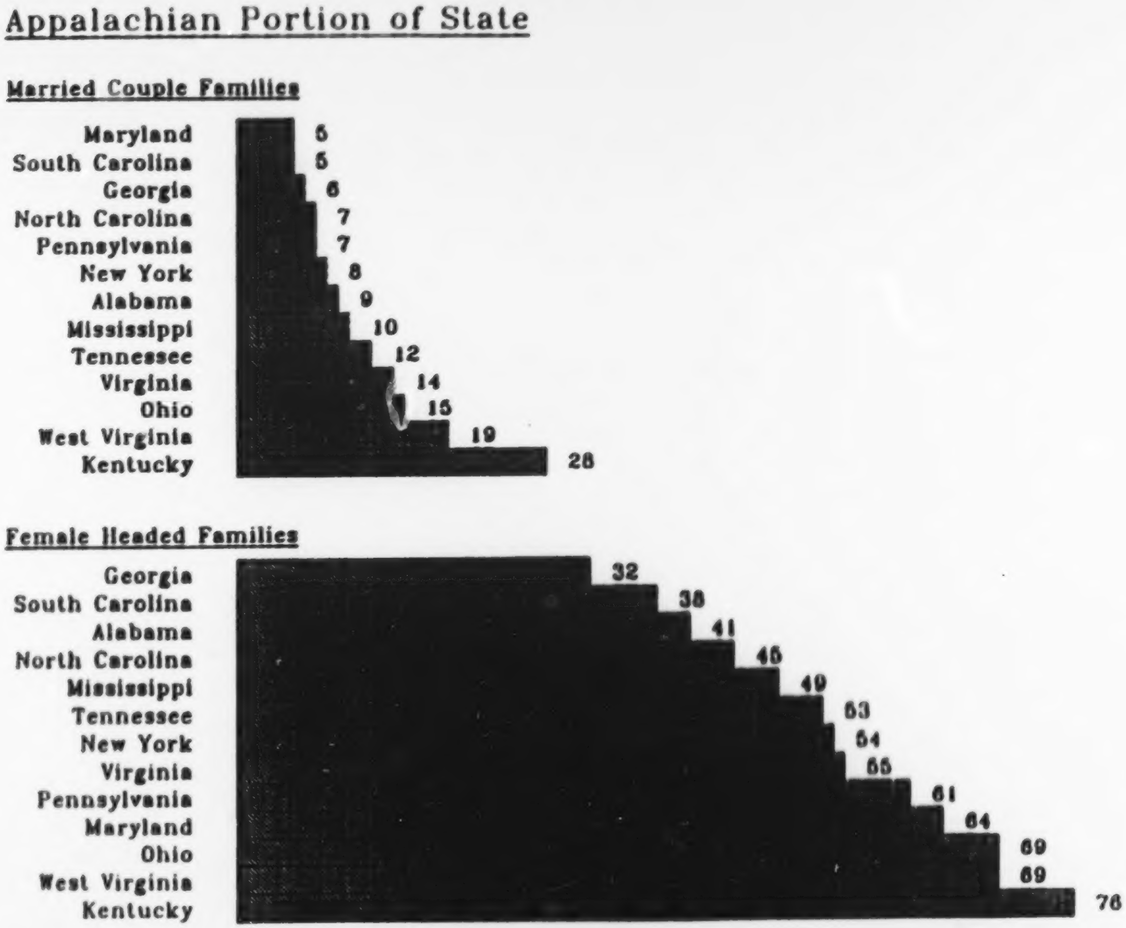
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P123.

Figure 34. Percent of White Families with Children under 5, in Poverty, by Family Type, 1990 Census.



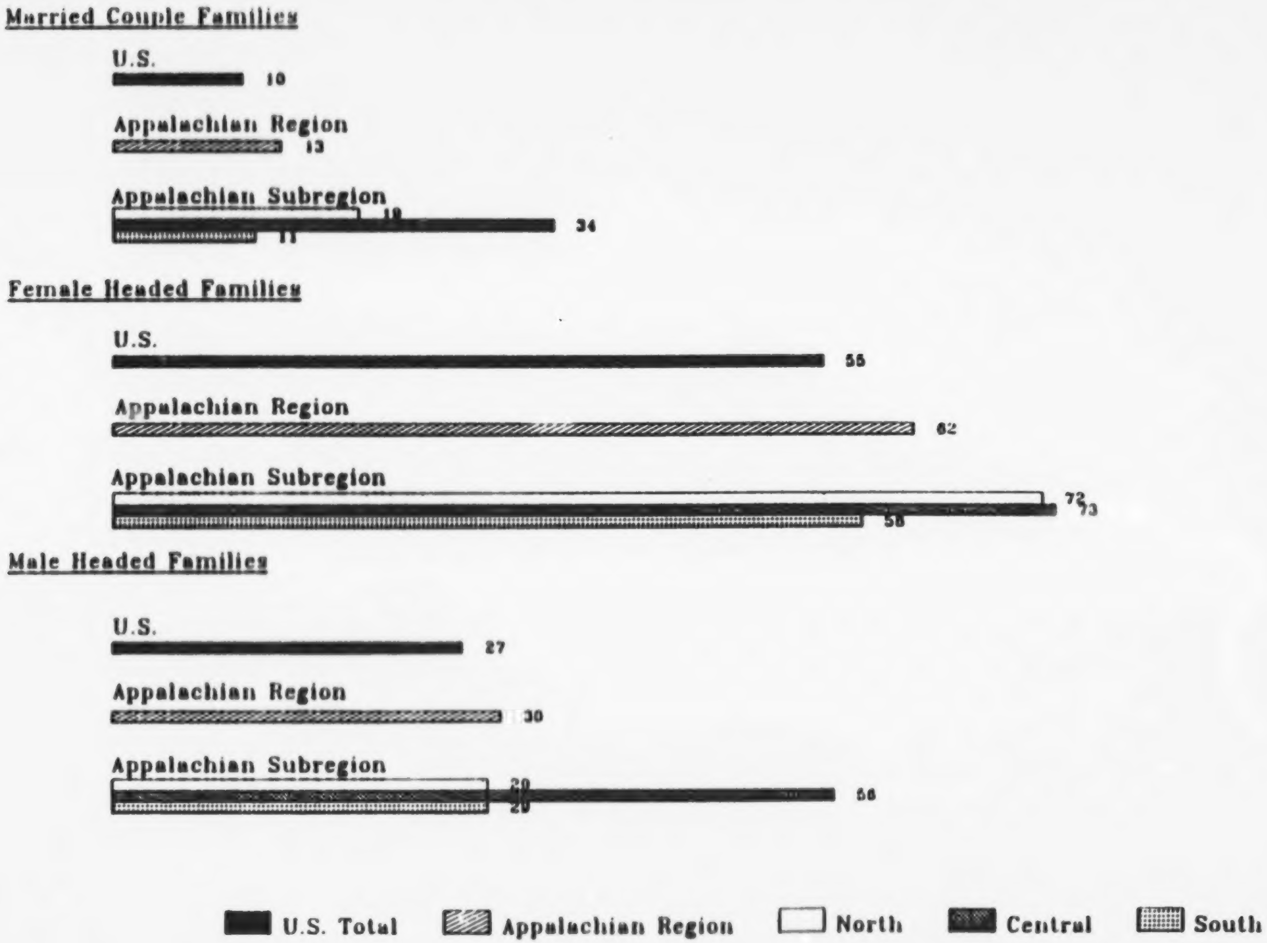
Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P124.

Figure 35. Percent of White Families with Children under 5, in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A). Table P124.

Figure 36. Percent of Black Families with Children under 5, in Poverty, by Family Type, 1990 Census.

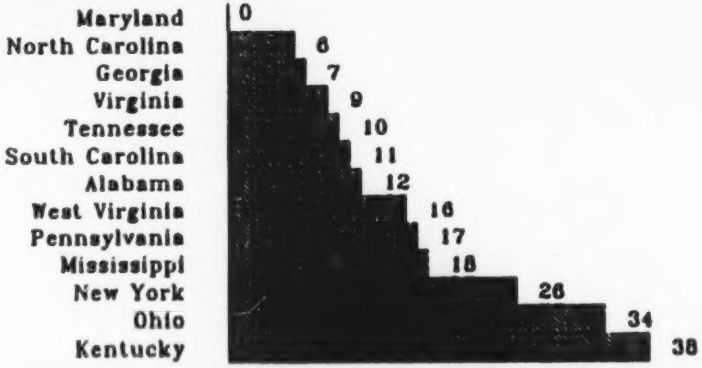


Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Table P124.

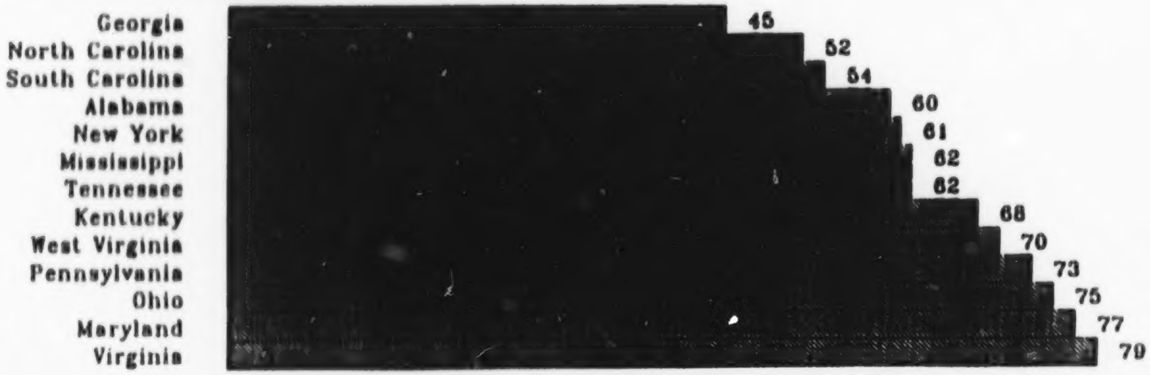
Figure 37. Percent of Black Families with Children under 5, in Poverty, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.

Appalachian Portion of State

Married Couple Families



Female Headed Families



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P124

Table 38. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Total, With Children Under Age 5, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		7	50	22
Appalachian Region		11	58	29
Appalachian Subregion	North	10	64	31
	Central	25	72	48
	South	8	49	23
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	10	51	25
	Georgia	6	35	15
	Kentucky	28	76	54
	Maryland	5	65	31
	Mississippi	11	58	43
	New York	8	55	30
	North Carolina	7	47	20
	Ohio	15	70	49
	Pennsylvania	8	64	26
	South Carolina	5	45	20
	Tennessee	12	55	28
	Virginia	14	58	28
	West Virginia	19	69	38

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P123.

Table 39. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Whites, With Children Under Age 5, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		6	46	20
Appalachian Region		11	57	29
Appalachian Subregion	North	10	63	31
	Central	25	71	47
	South	8	43	21
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	9	41	19
	Georgia	6	32	16
	Kentucky	28	76	53
	Maryland	5	64	32
	Mississippi	10	49	42
	New York	8	54	29
	North Carolina	7	45	20
	Ohio	15	69	49
	Pennsylvania	7	61	25
	South Carolina	5	38	16
	Tennessee	12	53	29
	Virginia	14	55	29
	West Virginia	19	69	39

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

Table 40. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Blacks, With Children Under Age 5, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		10	55	27
Appalachian Region		13	62	30
Appalachian Subregion	North	19	72	29
	Central	34	73	56
	South	11	58	29
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	12	60	35
	Georgia	7	45	12
	Kentucky	38	68	63
	Maryland	0	77	0
	Mississippi	18	62	45
	New York	26	61	12
	North Carolina	6	52	20
	Ohio	34	75	23
	Pennsylvania	17	73	32
	South Carolina	11	54	27
	Tennessee	10	62	21
	Virginia	9	79	0
	West Virginia	16	70	24

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

Table 41. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Total, With Children Ages 5 To 17, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		6	33	16
Appalachian Region		9	39	20
Appalachian Subregion	North	8	41	19
	Central	19	55	38
	South	7	35	17
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	7	39	17
	Georgia	5	25	12
	Kentucky	22	59	41
	Maryland	6	40	8
	Mississippi	10	50	28
	New York	5	32	19
	North Carolina	6	28	20
	Ohio	11	46	21
	Pennsylvania	6	40	17
	South Carolina	4	30	15
	Tennessee	9	38	22
	Virginia	12	44	26
	West Virginia	13	47	28

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P123.

Table 42. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Whites, With Children Ages 5 to 17, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		5	26	12
Appalachian Region		8	37	20
Appalachian Subregion	North	8	39	19
	Central	19	54	38
	South	6	28	16
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	6	29	15
	Georgia	5	22	10
	Kentucky	22	59	41
	Maryland	6	39	8
	Mississippi	7	33	17
	New York	5	31	18
	North Carolina	6	24	19
	Ohio	11	45	22
	Pennsylvania	6	37	16
	South Carolina	3	22	14
	Tennessee	9	36	21
	Virginia	12	44	26
	West Virginia	13	46	27

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

Table 43. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Blacks, With Children Ages 5 to 17, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		10	44	24
Appalachian Region		12	50	26
Appalachian Subregion	North	12	54	28
	Central	20	57	29
	South	11	48	25
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	12	50	22
	Georgia	10	43	26
	Kentucky	22	52	15
	Maryland	17	44	0
	Mississippi	18	61	41
	New York	10	53	30
	North Carolina	7	38	21
	Ohio	13	55	7
	Pennsylvania	12	54	30
	South Carolina	6	41	19
	Tennessee	9	48	26
	Virginia	9	41	52
	West Virginia	16	58	39

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

Table 44. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Total, Without Children, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		4	10	8
Appalachian Region		6	13	11
Appalachian Subregion	North	4	11	8
	Central	14	24	22
	South	6	14	12
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	7	16	13
	Georgia	5	10	8
	Kentucky	16	27	27
	Maryland	5	10	7
	Mississippi	10	21	18
	New York	3	6	5
	North Carolina	5	11	12
	Ohio	6	15	12
	Pennsylvania	4	9	7
	South Carolina	4	12	8
	Tennessee	7	16	14
	Virginia	9	18	17
	West Virginia	7	17	14

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P123.

▸ How does family poverty differ for families without children?
(*see Tables 44-46*)

Families without children are less likely to be poor than those with children. Only four percent of married-couple families without children in Appalachia are classified as poor, compared to 10 percent of those with children (Table 35). The level of poverty is also considerably lower among female- and male-headed families without versus with children. Thirteen percent of female-headed families without children and 47 percent (Table 35) of those with children fall below the poverty level. While poverty levels for families without children are consistently higher among blacks than whites, both groups are less likely to be poor than their counterparts with children.

Patterns by Subregion

o Echoing the patterns for families with children, poverty levels are highest in Central Appalachia across all types of families without children.

Patterns by Appalachian Portions of States

o A low of three percent of married-couple families without children were classified as poor in the Appalachian portion of New York, while a high of 16 percent fall below the poverty threshold in Kentucky. The share of female-headed families without children ranges from 6 percent to 27 percent across the States that contribute families to the region.

Table 45. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Whites, Without Children, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		3	7	6
Appalachian Region		6	12	10
Appalachian Subregion	North	4	10	8
	Central	13	24	22
	South	6	11	10
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	6	11	11
	Georgia	5	9	7
	Kentucky	16	27	27
	Maryland	4	11	7
	Mississippi	9	13	10
	New York	3	6	4
	North Carolina	5	10	11
	Ohio	6	15	12
	Pennsylvania	4	8	6
	South Carolina	3	10	6
	Tennessee	7	15	13
	Virginia	9	18	16
	West Virginia	7	17	14

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Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

Table 46. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, Blacks, Without Children, by Family Type, 1990 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level		
		Married Couple	Female-headed	Male-headed
Total US		9	19	15
Appalachian Region		12	24	20
Appalachian Subregion	North	8	24	21
	Central	16	27	23
	South	12	23	19
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	13	25	19
	Georgia	12	17	12
	Kentucky	21	36	47
	Maryland	8	6	11
	Mississippi	21	33	31
	New York	11	18	26
	North Carolina	7	15	21
	Ohio	6	20	17
	Pennsylvania	8	26	21
	South Carolina	9	17	15
	Tennessee	9	27	16
	Virginia	16	17	20
	West Virginia	11	22	20

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

Table 47. Percent of Families Below Poverty Level, by Family Type, 1980 Census

		Percent of Families Below Poverty Level	
		All Families	Female-headed Families
Total US		10	30
Appalachian Region		11	29
Appalachian Subregion	North	8	26
	Central	19	38
	South	12	30
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	13	34
	Georgia	10	25
	Kentucky	22	43
	Maryland	9	25
	Mississippi	17	38
	New York	8	26
	North Carolina	11	25
	Ohio	10	29
	Pennsylvania	7	25
	South Carolina	10	28
	Tennessee	13	31
	Virginia	13	28
	West Virginia	12	29

Source: Tabulations of 1980 USA Counties data by Child Trends, Inc.

Education

Indicators of Educational Enrollment Patterns

Educational attainment is one the primary determinants of wages and income. In this section, we focus on indicators of educational enrollment patterns among children in Appalachia providing answers to the following specific questions:

- What percent of children in Appalachia drop out of school? Complete 12 years of schooling? How does this vary by race?
- What percent of children in Appalachia are enrolled in school? What percent of preschool age children are not enrolled in school?

▸ What percent of children in Appalachia drop out of school? Complete 12 years of schooling? How does this vary by race?

(*see Tables 48-50; Figures 38-40*)

Among children ages 16 to 19, the percent who have dropped out of school compares quite closely with that of the nation as a whole (12 percent versus 11 percent). Likewise the percentage of persons ages 18 to 24 who have completed 12 or more years of schooling is similar in Appalachia (77 percent) to the U.S. average (76 percent). However, whites ages 25 or older in Appalachia are less likely to have completed 12 or more years of schooling (69 percent) than the comparable group in the nation (78 percent). The gap between Appalachian blacks in this age group and in the total U.S., however, is not as striking (59 percent versus 63 percent).

Patterns by Subregion

o Children in the Central and Southern subregions are much more likely to have dropped out of school than those in the Northern subregion (15 and 14 percent versus 8 percent).

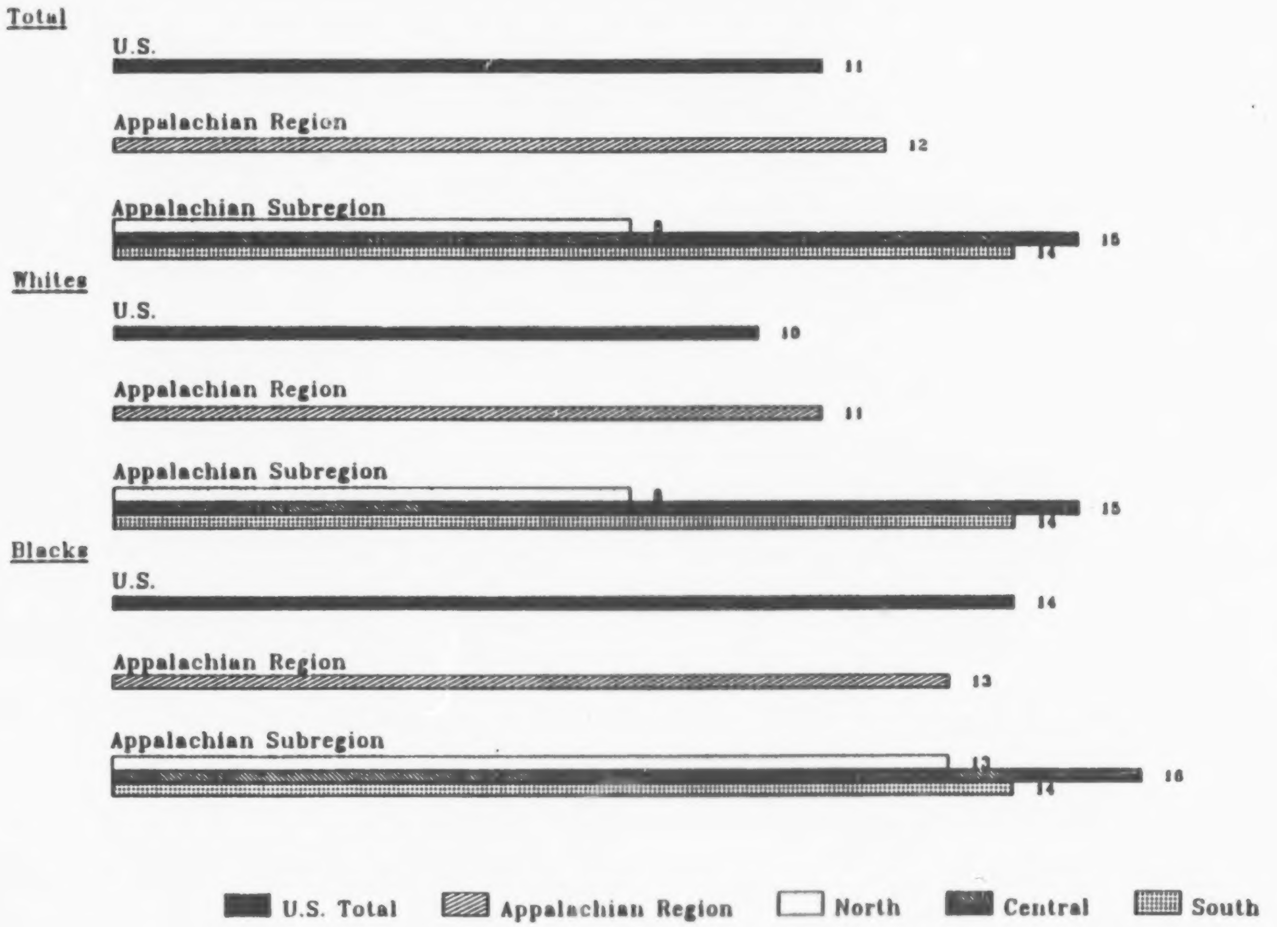
o Although in the Central and Southern subregions, both black and white children are about equally as likely to have dropped out of school and to have completed 12 years of schooling, black children in the Northern subregion are much more likely to have dropped out of school (13 percent) than white children (8 percent).

Patterns by States

o Substantial variation exists across Appalachian States in the percent of children who have dropped out of school. For example, in Appalachian New York only 8 percent of children have dropped out while in Appalachian Georgia over twice that proportion (18 percent) have dropped out.

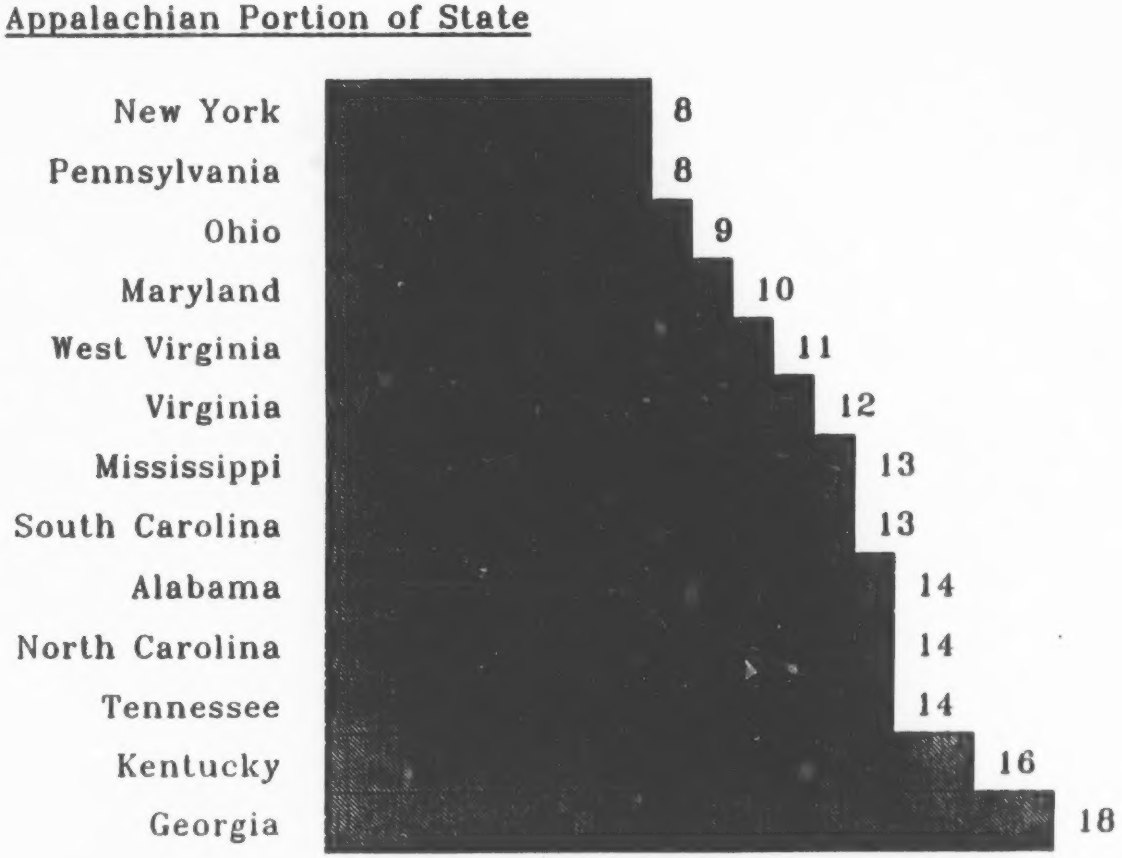
o Among blacks, the differences between States is even larger. In the Appalachian portion of Ohio only 7 percent of black children have dropped out, compared to over 3 times this percentage (25 percent) in Appalachian Maryland.

Figure 38. Percent of Children Ages 16 to 19 Who Dropped Out of School, by Race, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P58, P82.

Figure 39. Percent of Children Ages 16 to 19 Who Dropped Out of School, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Table P58, P62.

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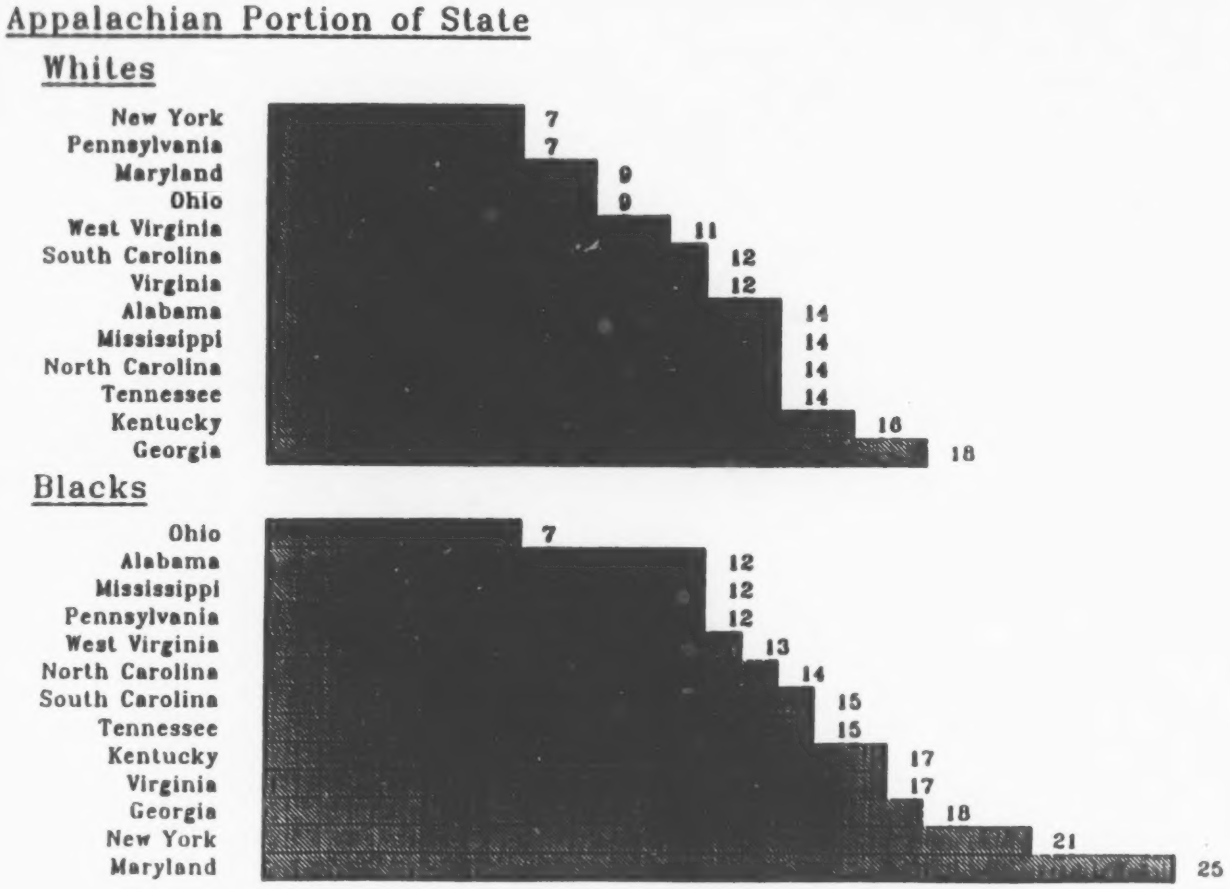
Figure 40. Percent of Children Ages 16 to 19 Who Dropped Out of School, by Race, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Tables P58, P62.

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Table 49. High School Completion and Dropout, Whites, 1990 Census

		Percent Completed 12 or More Years of Schooling Ages 25+	Percent of High School Drop Outs[1] Ages 16-19
Total US		78	10
Appalachian Region		69	11
Appalachian Subregion	North	73	8
	Central	53	15
	South	67	14
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	69	14
	Georgia	68	18
	Kentucky	51	16
	Maryland	70	9
	Mississippi	64	14
	New York	77	7
	North Carolina	68	14
	Ohio	69	9
	Pennsylvania	75	7
	South Carolina	69	12
	Tennessee	64	14
	Virginia	56	12
	West Virginia	66	11

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P58, P62.

[1] Dropouts include persons 16 to 19 who are not H.S. graduates, nor enrolled in school.

[2] Percent Completed 12 or more years of schooling can only be computed for persons 25 years and older by race because school enrollment for persons 18 years and older is not available from the Census data, therefore it cannot be compared with Table 48.

Table 48. High School Completion and Dropout, Total, 1990 Census

		Percent Completed 12 or More Years of Schooling	Percent of High School Drop Outs[1]
		Ages 18-24	Ages 16-19
Total US		76	11
Appalachian Region		77	12
Appalachian Subregion	North	81	8
	Central	68	15
	South	73	14
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	73	14
	Georgia	68	18
	Kentucky	69	16
	Maryland	78	10
	Mississippi	73	13
	New York	84	8
	North Carolina	75	14
	Ohio	76	9
	Pennsylvania	83	8
	South Carolina	75	13
	Tennessee	73	14
	Virginia	70	12
	West Virginia	75	11

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P124.

[1] Dropouts include persons 16 to 19 who are not H.S. graduates, nor enrolled in school.

Table 50. High School Completion and Dropout, Blacks, 1990 Census

		Percent Completed 12 or More Years of Schooling	Percent of High School Drop Outs[1]
		Ages 25+	Ages 16-19
Total US		63	14
Appalachian Region		59	13
Appalachian Subregion	North	67	13
	Central	56	16
	South	56	14
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	58	12
	Georgia	55	18
	Kentucky	52	17
	Maryland	58	25
	Mississippi	44	12
	New York	65	21
	North Carolina	63	14
	Ohio	64	7
	Pennsylvania	68	12
	South Carolina	51	15
	Tennessee	61	15
	Virginia	54	17
	West Virginia	65	13

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P58, P62.

[1] Dropouts include persons 16 to 19 who are not H.S. graduates, nor enrolled in school.

[2] Percent Completed 12 or more years of schooling can only be computed for persons 25 years and older by race because school enrollment for persons 18 years and older is not available from the Census data, therefore it cannot be compared with Table 48.

▸ What percent of children in Appalachia are enrolled in school? What percent of preschool age children are not enrolled in school?

(*see Tables 51, 52; Figures 41, 42*)

Children in Appalachia are about as likely to be enrolled in school as children in the nation as a whole (82 percent versus 84 percent). Nevertheless, among preschool age children, those in Appalachia are not as likely to be enrolled in pre-primary school compared to the national average. In the Appalachian region, 44 percent of children ages 3 and 4 are not enrolled in school, whereas in the total U.S. only 39 percent are not enrolled.

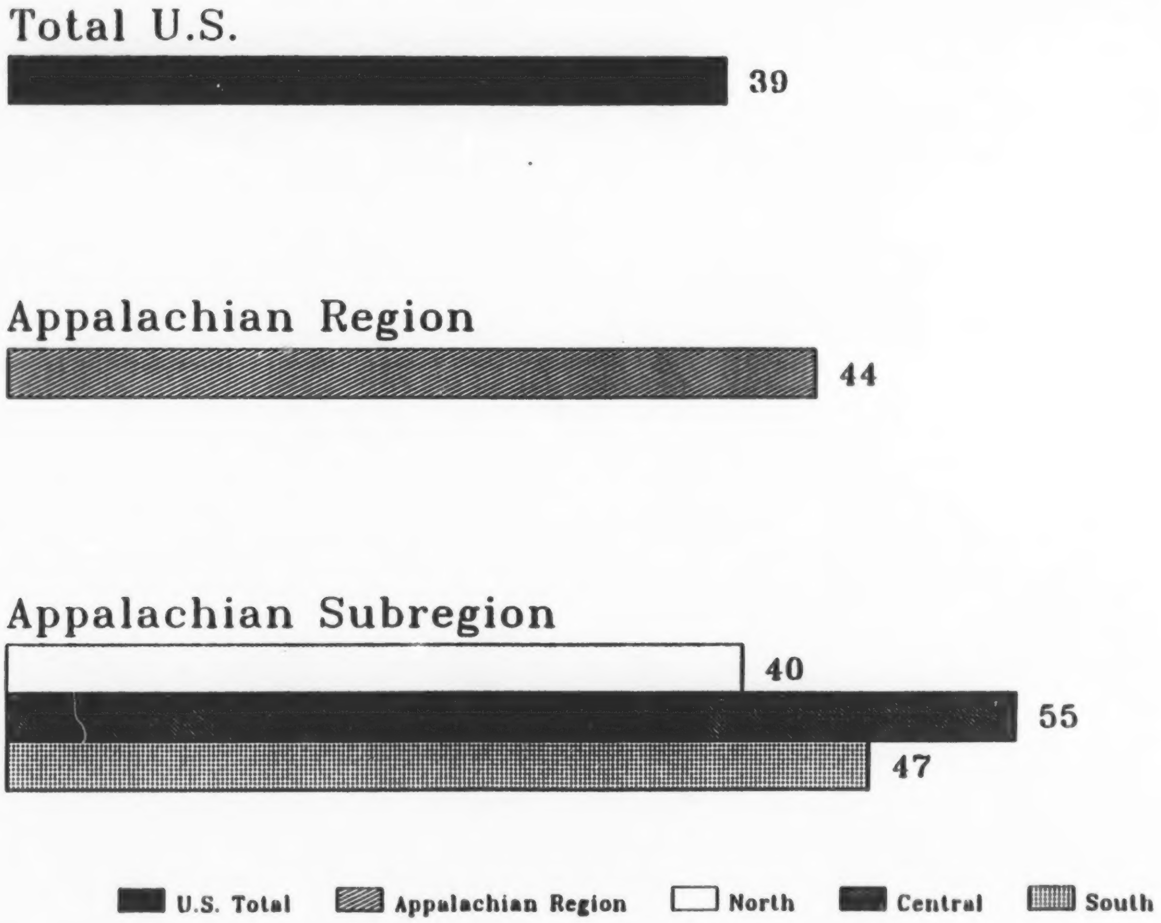
Patterns by Subregion

o Children of preschool age in the Central subregion of Appalachia are more likely (55 percent) than other subregions not to be enrolled in school. The Southern region follows with 47 percent not enrolled, while only 40 percent of those in the Northern region are not in pre-primary school.

Patterns by State

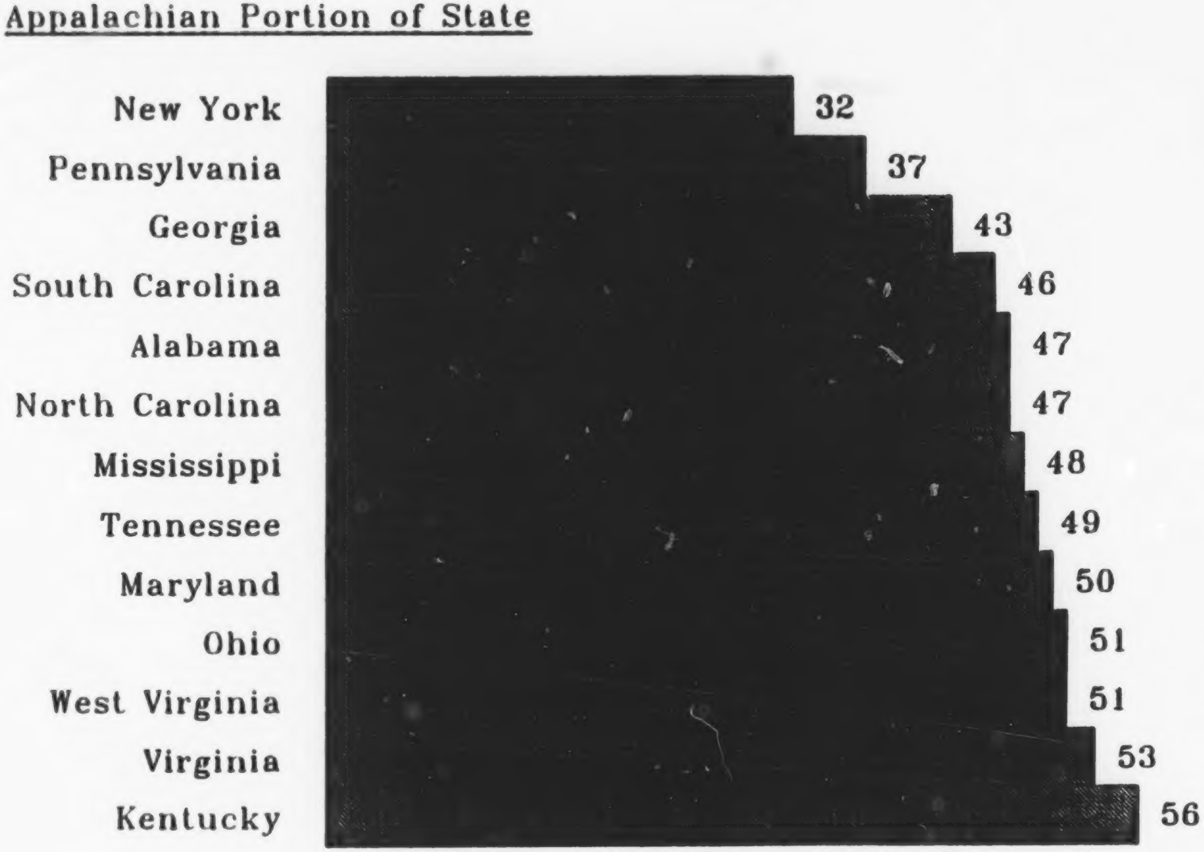
o Children in Appalachian New York are the most likely to be enrolled in pre-primary school compared to other states. Pennsylvania follows closely behind New York, but the remaining Appalachian States are much less likely to have pre-schoolers enrolled. In the Appalachian portion of Kentucky has the lowest percentage of pre-school age children enrolled in school.

Figure 41. Percent of Children Age 3 to 4 Not Enrolled in School, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A and STF-3C), Tables P13, P54.

Figure 42. Percent of Children Ages 3 to 4 Not Enrolled in School, Appalachian Portion of States, 1990 Census.



Source: 1990 Census (STF-3A), Tables P13, P54.

Table 51. Enrollment of School Age Children, Total, 1990 Census

		Percent Enrolled Ages 3-18	Percent Not Enrolled Ages 3-4
Total US		84	39
Appalachian Region		82	44
Appalachian Subregion	North	82	40
	Central	82	55
	South	82	47
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	83	47
	Georgia	81	43
	Kentucky	81	56
	Maryland	82	50
	Mississippi	82	48
	New York	82	32
	North Carolina	82	47
	Ohio	82	51
	Pennsylvania	82	37
	South Carolina	84	46
	Tennessee	81	49
	Virginia	84	53
	West Virginia	83	51

Source: Tabulations of 1990 Census of Population and Housing Data (STF-3A and STF-3C) by Child Trends, Inc., Table P13, P54.

Table 52. Percent Completed 12 or More Years of Schooling, 1980 Census.

		Percent Completed 12 or More Years of Schooling
		Ages 25 or Older
Total US		50
Appalachian Region		46
Appalachian Subregion	North	52
	Central	35
	South	42
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	45
	Georgia	39
	Kentucky	33
	Maryland	50
	Mississippi	39
	New York	53
	North Carolina	40
	Ohio	52
	Pennsylvania	53
	South Carolina	38
	Tennessee	41
	Virginia	35
	West Virginia	46

Source: Tabulations of 1980 USA Counties data by Child Trends, Inc.

Table 53. School Enrollment, by Age, 1980 Census

		Number Enrolled	
		Persons 3 and Up In School	Persons 3 and Up Nursery School
Total US		62,054,304	2,429,651
Appalachian Region		5,278,484	146,041
Appalachian Subregion	North	2,623,241	71,969
	Central	531,319	10,052
	South	2,123,924	64,020
Appalachian Portion of State	Alabama	652,546	18,797
	Georgia	286,910	9,473
	Kentucky	271,926	4,515
	Maryland	55,614	1,760
	Mississippi	136,254	3,472
	New York	321,667	9,773
	North Carolina	311,705	10,677
	Ohio	352,428	9,103
	Pennsylvania	1,497,473	43,142
	South Carolina	218,307	6,482
	Tennessee	543,778	16,687
	Virginia	137,119	2,355
	West Virginia	492,757	9,805

Source: Tabulations of 1980 USA Counties data by Child Trends, Inc.